MONDAY
January 20, 2025

BENGALURU
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Department of Information and Public Relations

1924-2024
BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA

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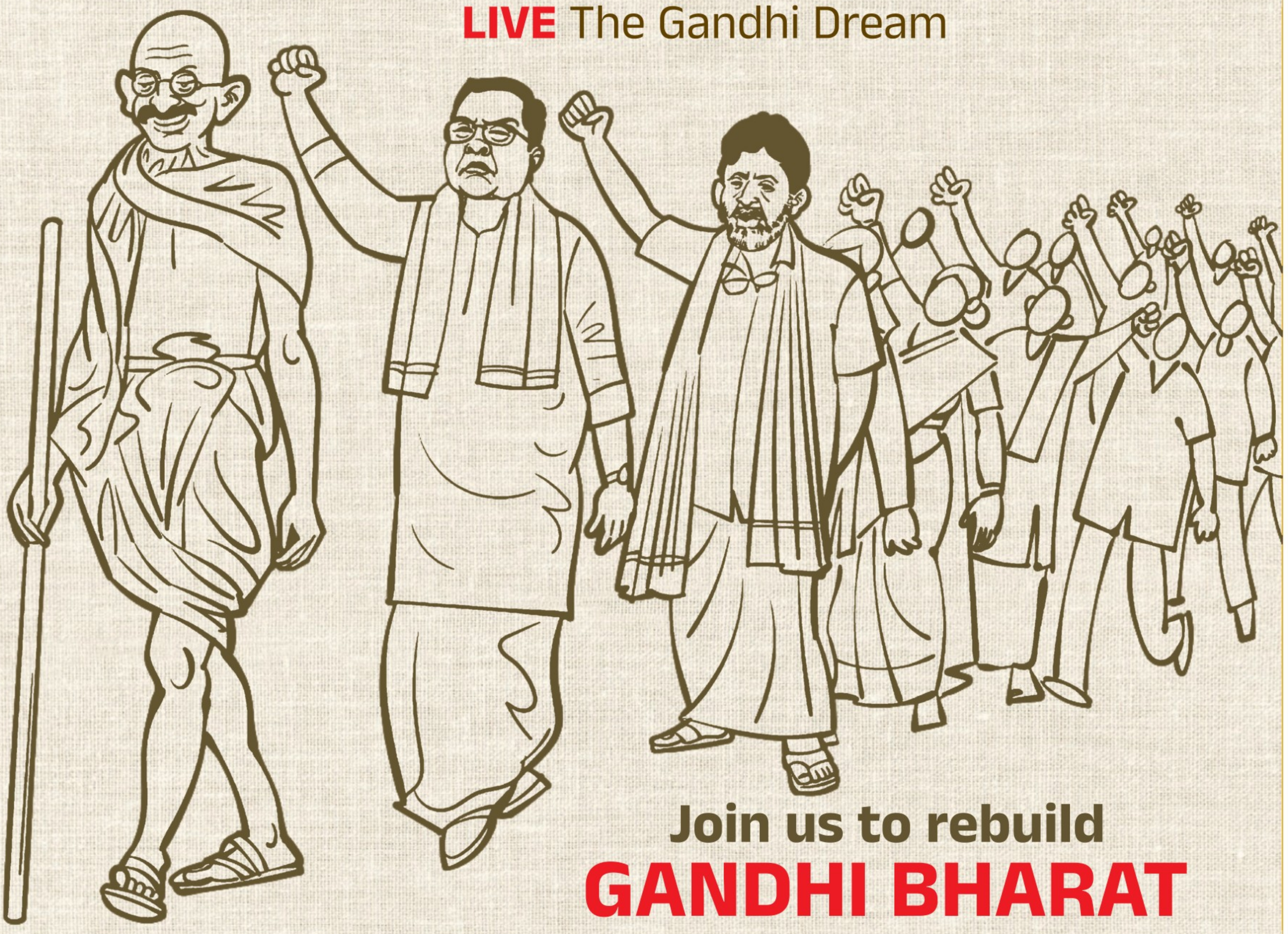
WALK The Gandhi Philosophy
LIVE The Gandhi Dream



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SAIF ALI KHAN CASE

Accused held, to be in custody for five days

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NO CASUALTY REPORTED

Cylinder blast triggers fire at Maha Kumbh

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GAZA CEASEFIRE PHASE 1

Truce takes hold with handover of hostages

WORLD » PAGE 16

THE HISTORIAN'S LOT

One must note that the past has many layers

One must look at facts & what was dubbed fiction

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

BLOCKBUSTER

Djokovic sets up a clash with Alcaraz

SPORT » PAGE 17

Of voters' diversity dividend and the BJP's hat-trick lite

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Young India is hankering for a new kind of politics, but neither the BJP nor the Congress fulfils the real aspirations of this India, senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai said at *The Hindu* Lit for Life festival here on Sunday.

Mr. Sardesai was in conversation with N. Ram, veteran journalist and Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd.; Jayanthi Natarajan, former Union Minister; and Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, New Delhi, on the topic "The election that surprised India".

Rajdeep Sardesai, senior journalist; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; and Jayanthi Natarajan, former Union Minister; with Varghese K. George at the Lit For Life in Chennai on Sunday. R. RAGU

'Uniquely diverse'

Speaking about the diversity dividend of voters in the country, Mr. Sardesai said that India was uniquely diverse.

"To expect one leader or one party to establish his or her supremacy is not so easy. Last year at this time, after the [consecration of] Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the general impression was that the 2024 election was a done deal and that the BJP would get more than 400 seats in Lok Sabha. Even though the elections were not a level playing field, particularly the way in which media, agency, and the State power were misused, the party in power didn't get a majority on its own."

Mr. Ram said, "Though the BJP claimed a hat-trick, it was a sort of hat-trick lite, because the party failed to get a majority. The ground has shifted under Prime Minister Modi's feet. They are trying to repair those cracks. We saw that in the Haryana and Maharashtra elections."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 13
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 10, 11 & 12

Vijayendra's supporters raise the ante

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The internal tussle in the BJP reached a flashpoint on Sunday with supporters of party State unit president, B. Y. Vijayendra, announcing that they would soon go to Delhi to urge the central leadership to expel rebel leaders, Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi, from the party.

This comes a day after Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan indicated that election would be held to choose the State unit president. While the BJP State chief declared at a programme that there was no question of going back on his stand, his supporters and former Ministers, M.P. Renukacharya and Katta Subramanya Naidu, demanded the immediate expulsion of Mr. Yatnal and Mr. Jarkiholi.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

Poor demand hits investments by private sector in Q3

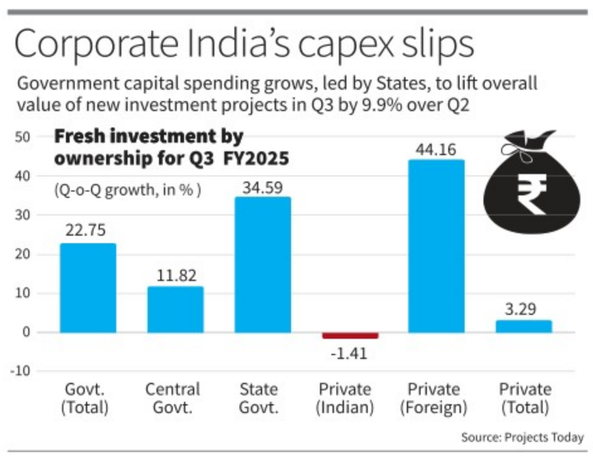
New investments by domestic private players fell 1.4% from Q2 reflecting fears over costs, slow growth; States drive growth in public investments

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

With domestic demand seen waning amid a spike in inflation and input costs, investment plans by India's private sector took a hit, falling 1.4% in the October-December quarter (Q3) of 2024-25 after a fleeting recovery in the second quarter (Q2).

However, government capex plans registered a sharp growth, lifting overall fresh investments in the economy by 9.9% in Q3 to ₹11.46 lakh crore from an updated tally of ₹10.43 lakh crore recorded in Q2. This rise was led by a 34.6% spike in fresh investments by State governments over Q2 levels, almost thrice the 11.8% growth in new outlays announced by the Union government.

Domestic investors, however, pulled back fresh investment plans by 1.4% from Q2 to nearly ₹6.11 lakh crore in Q3, show data from Projects Today, a firm tracking new and ongoing investment projects in the country since 2000.



CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 13

NEARBY

Cess on vehicle registrations likely from Feb.

BENGALURU
From February, vehicle buyers in Karnataka may have to pay an additional cess of ₹500 for two-wheelers and ₹1,000 for cars during registration.
» Page 2

Wolf gives birth to eight pups

BENGALURU
A wolf gave birth to eight pups at the Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary in Koppal district recently. Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday said that due to the enhanced safety measures in place, the endangered Indian wolves are thriving freely at the sanctuary.
» Page 7

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE J2

City financial services firm cheated of ₹14.26 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City-based financial services company Navi Technologies Ltd., founded by Sachin Bansal after his exit from Flipkart, has alleged that miscreants posing as customers misused a bug and cheated the company of ₹14.26 crore in 14 days in December 2024. The Whitefield Cybercrime Police registered a case against the unidentified fraudsters on Saturday and a probe is on.

In his complaint, Srinivas Gowda, a vigilance officer at the company, said that between December 10 and 24, an option was provided for customers to make payments for mobile recharge, EMIs, and other services through the app.

However, there was a bug after a third-party application provider (TPAP) payment gateway gave an option to edit the amount payable after the process on the Navi app. Misusing this, many made payments through the app and later going to the TPAP edited the amount to ₹1, triggering a success report of the transaction, based on which Navi Technologies made the full payment selected on their app.

Through this *modus operandi*, the firm had been cheated of ₹14.26 crore, the complaint said.

The police have now sought more details of these financial transactions.

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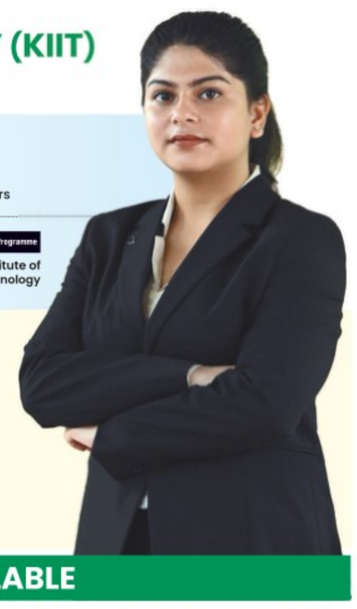

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- CSE (Internet of Things)
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- MA Psychology
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BCCI's diktat — a balancing act between planning and execution in pursuit of excellence

While the Board has come up with remedial measures with a view to revive flagging fortunes in red-ball cricket, it will be interesting to see how these get implemented with concerns of player burnout floating around

AFP

R. Kaushik

Well intentioned (?) 'leaks' and well-placed sources have revealed catchy details of the discussions that took place during the review meeting called last weekend by the Board of Control for Cricket in India to dissect what by all accounts has been a dismal season of Test cricket. Having begun promisingly with an expected 2-0 rout of Bangladesh, India won only one of their next eight Tests, thereby playing themselves out of contention for a place in the final of the World Test Championship for a third successive time.

Their batting was in shambles in Australia, with 200 topped only thrice in nine innings. The top order, with the honourable exception of Yashasvi Jaiswal – and, to a lesser extent, K.L. Rahul – came a terrible cropper, skipper Rohit Sharma sat out the final Test because he didn't believe he figured in the best XI on current form and India fielded spinners as if on a whim in the first three Tests before going in with two of them in Sydney, on a green, spiteful deck where collectively, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar bowled a mere four overs across two innings.

In order to compensate for top-order failings, India were forced to extend their batting line-up, perhaps at the expense of a penetrative bowling option (did they have any left, you might ask) when the brief going into Sydney was clear - win the Test if you are to square the series, retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and theoretically stay alive in the WTC race. One can only presume that these issues were all debated at the review meeting; 'leaks' haven't thrown light, perhaps the clearest indication of how the perception towards what's news and what's not has changed with changing times.

Course correction

What we do know is that there was much soul-searching and banging of heads on developments off the field that the leadership group believed had an impact on the performances on it. As such, there is a spoken desire to embark on course correction, though whether that will be implemented or whether mere lip service is being paid in the aftermath of one of India's most disappointing outings in recent times remains to be seen.

Foremost on the BCCI's priority list is to return domestic cricket to its former glory. How does one do that? By asking players to represent their respective states in Ranji Trophy and white-ball tournaments when they are not on national duty. Simple, right? Not quite.

Rohit made a pertinent observation on the sidelines of the announcement of India's Champions Trophy squad on Saturday, stopping short of saying that players weren't machines who could play day in and day out. He pointed out that, speaking for himself, from the time he became a Test regular towards the end of 2019, he had been playing near-non-stop international cricket, considering that until the end of June, he was an all-format certainty. He remarked that India's domestic season, between September and March, is when the Indian team is also involved in action generally, in one format or the other and at times in more than one format at the same time in different parts of the world. He spoke passionately of the need for players to rest and recover and recharge physically and mentally. Bravo. Especially for a beleaguered captain to make such logical and valid arguments with calmness and composure spoke to his leadership traits.

In the same breath, Rohit agreed that playing domestic cricket was essential. It's a point of view he has espoused in the past as well. After all, it's at the domestic level where it all started - for Rohit, for Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah, for Rahul and Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Shami and everyone else. How can playing for their respective states be a drudge, a punishment?

There is a very thin line between insisting on adherence to norms and running the players to the ground. One of the common arguments is that when the rest of us mere mortals turn up for work every day and don't ask for or take 'breaks', why should an exception be made for the cricketers whose 'work' is to play. Really?

It has emerged that several of those who played in Australia until earlier this month and who will play in Dubai in the Champions Trophy next month will fulfil state duties when the Ranji Trophy resumes on Thursday after having taken a pause to facilitate the white-ball Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy tournaments. Among them is Rohit himself, who hasn't played for Mumbai since November 2015. Others certain to figure in this round of matches are Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Pant, potentially Jadeja and Washington too. That will lift the profile of the Ranji Trophy, undoubtedly. It will inspire their teammates and their opponents and hopefully, it will catch the attention of the fans, many of whom swear by only white-ball cricket unless the national team is in red-ball action.

Terrific development

From an optics point of view, this is a terrific development, driven by head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar. Perhaps lost in all this posturing is a little empathy and understanding, a little sensitivity. Rest isn't such a bad thing. International sport, with its pulls and pressures and massive stakes, compels a certain amount of downtime. Whether an insistence on playing the Ranji Trophy this soon after an eight-week tour of Australia and this close to the ODI series against England, starting in two and a half weeks from now, is ideal is a point to debate.

Balance hasn't always been Indian cricket's greatest virtue. One can only hope that when the dust settles, when passions don't run as high and when calmer minds come together, there will be a little more flexibility when it comes to such matters. Domestic cricket can't and must not be ignored, but can we not make it out like sending the international stars to play for their states is a punishment of sorts?

The review meeting, attended by the BCCI head honchos as well as Rohit, Gambhir and Agarkar, was seized of the need to streamline procedures when the national team is on an overseas trip. Much of the protocols that have been put in place have existed in the past, but the insistence on strict adherence to those protocols has stemmed from experiences in Australia that didn't do full justice to the term 'team'.

While rumours of a house divided are almost certainly only that - rumours - it can't be denied that India appeared a little disjointed Down Under. Some players travelling with their families separately from the rest of the squad was far from ideal.

One of the greatest virtues of team sport is camaraderie and togetherness, which fosters team spirit and a looking-out-for-one-another mindset. India didn't lose in Australia because they didn't travel as one or they didn't stay as one. But the value of experienced players spending time with newcomers off the field, in a non-pressure setting, sharing their journey, asking and answering questions and furthering the bonding process can never be overstated.

In a throwback to the past, existing guidelines with regard to the players being joined by their families while on tour are set to be followed in letter all over again. These guidelines were relaxed during the Covid-19 pandemic when it was imperative for players confined to their rooms to be lifted by the presence of their spouses and kids whenever possible. Post the pandemic, that trend continued but it seems that after what happened in Australia, the authorities have decided that it is time to turn the clock back and place restrictions on when and for how long families can visit the players.

This is being seen as a retrograde, negative, insensitive step in various quarters, with jibes about wives and children being held responsible for the non-performances of their husbands and parents flooding social media space when that is neither the import nor the intent of this messaging. Wives and kids have been travelling with Indian players for more than four decades now but where, in the past, families got together and got along in the evenings and on non-match days, there is a sense of disconnect between most now. Each of them is in their own bubble, which again is far from ideal in a team set-up where you can't just turn up for work in the morning and go home in the evening. To have one's family around, especially when the going is not great, must be a terrific source of support and comfort. Again, balance is the key here. Exceptions will certainly be made and not because of who the request is coming from. Guidelines are in place for a reason, but they can't and must not be set in stone because one of the most important traits of good leadership is to not have a one-size-fits-all approach.

These are troubled times for Indian cricket, and it's during troubled times that all sorts of issues rear their heads. India can buy themselves some breathing space with a good run in the Champions Trophy, but they can't afford to sweep underlying problems under the carpet. Response must be measured, commonsensical and inclusive, not knee-jerk and authoritarian.

Empathy more than carping criticism - from the authorities, if not the experts and the fans - is essential but that should be reciprocated by the players in terms of effort and commitment (after all, there is no guarantee of results). Tricky, interesting days ahead, when collective mettle, character and temperament will be tested as much as skill, ability, planning and execution.

THE GIST

- Foremost on the BCCI's priority list is to return domestic cricket to its former glory. How does one do that? By asking players to represent their respective states in Ranji Trophy and white-ball tournaments when they are not on national duty
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To AI or not to AI?

AI tools, by themselves, do not have the power to enhance or diminish our originality and creativity. It all depends on how we use them.

Albert P' Rayan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education has recently sparked widespread discussion and debate about its impact on student learning.

AI tools are now commonly used by students at both the secondary and tertiary levels for several academic purposes. While many educators view this development positively, others express concerns that it may lead to plagiarism, hinder creativity, and reduce originality.

How authentic?

It is true that AI cannot create in the same way humans can because it lacks intrinsic creativity. Humans possess immense creative potential that machines cannot match. For example, the music of renowned musicians and the writing style of creative authors are unique. In fantasy and sci-fi author Joanna Maciejewska's words "I want AI to do my laundry and dishes so that I can do my art and writing..." No fan of JK Rowling expects her to use AI to write a novel, just as no fan of AR Rahman expects him to compose music with the help of AI. Artificial is synthetic, while natural is authentic.

This statement should not be interpreted to mean that AI cannot be used for creative or productive purposes. The purposes for which creative artists use AI tools are quite different from those for which students and teachers use them.

Noam Chomsky provocatively described AI as "plagiarism software". While some critics argue that AI merely copies and modifies existing words and phrases, generative models do not simply reproduce content. Instead, they synthesize new combinations and generate novel outputs based on the data they are trained on. However, using AI-generated content uncritically reflects a lack of originality, creativity, and critical thinking.

Those who view AI as a threat to academic integrity (honesty, fairness, and responsibility) often fail to see its educational potential. This raises the question of whether AI tools should be banned, restricted, or promoted in educational institutions.

New York City public schools, which had previously restricted access to ChatGPT on school computers and networks, have recently lifted the ban. Rather than thinking of banning AI tools, schools should teach students how to use them appropriately. This proactive approach can enhance students' understanding of the technology and could prove to be a valuable workplace skill. It is crucial for education boards to implement thoughtful and reasonable AI policies.

Good or bad mentor

In a discussion on the role of AI in education, one teacher remarked that AI acts as a mentor for students. I asked whether he considered it a good or bad one. The reality is that AI can be either, depending on how we choose to use it. The prompts we provide reflect our intentions, and AI responds accordingly.

AI, as a good mentor or an educational tool, can instil confidence in learners, arouse their curiosity, empower them to critically evaluate generated content, spark creativity, synthesize information, edit or translate content into any language, help them improve their language skills, organise study materials, develop learner autonomy, and enhance personalized learning by making it more effective and enjoyable.

On the other hand, as a bad mentor, AI can do everything for the student: generate ideas for homework, complete assignments, prepare presentation slides, and even give the impression that the user is the original author of essays, presentations, and reports it has created.

AI has empowered many academics, researchers, and students who now feel that language should no longer be a barrier to expressing their novel ideas and research findings, as AI tools assist with language-related tasks.

In other words, thanks to AI, academia has become more productive, if not more innovative and creative.

With the ubiquitous smartphone and other gadgets and 24/7 Internet, anyone can learn anytime and anywhere in the 21st century. If individuals become AI literate and learn to use AI tools effectively, they can become self-directed learners with minimal assistance from teachers. Therefore, educators should teach students how AI works, its strengths, and its limitations, so that students understand when and how to use it effectively. This can promote more strategic use of AI and reduce over-reliance on it. They should also address ethical issues, such as plagiarism and emphasise the importance of adhering to AI policies.

AI tools, by themselves, do not have the power to enhance or diminish our originality and creativity– it all depends on how we use them. When applied thoughtfully, rather than as a crutch, they can assist with idea generation, help overcome mental blocks, and refine texts, thereby expanding creative capabilities. However, over-reliance on AI can develop cognitive laziness or mental inertia, weaken problem-solving abilities, reduce independent thinking, and lead us to bypass imaginative processes. Since AI-generated content often reflects patterns from its training data, excessive dependence on it can further restrict originality. Will we make AI our creative assistant or allow it to become a crutch? The ball is in our court. Let's make the right play.

The writer is an ELT resource person and education columnist.
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NIT No. 04: Tender Notice No.04/SE(P-C,N&EZ)/GHMC/ 2024-2025/ 3rd call, Dt: 18.01.2025, Name of the work: "Restoration measures for RK Puram ROB at Rama Krishnapuram Railway Station, Secunderabad", Estimate Amount / ECV: Rs.600.00 Lakhs, Start Date/ Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Start Date: 20.01.2025 @ 04.00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 28.01.2025 @ 04.00 PM, Name & Address Officer Cell. No.: O/o. Superintending Engineer (Projects-C,N&EZ), GHMC, 79950 07399. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Or can be contact Office of the Superintending Engineer (P-C,N&EZ), GHMC in office working hours.
DIPR R.O.No.9311-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 19.01.2025
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Projects-C,N&EZ), GHMC.

ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ
ಅಂಕೋಲಾ–ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
mail- amoankola-hfws@karnataka.gov.in ಫೋನ್ ನಂ:08388–230249 ಪಿನ್ ಕೋಡ್: 581314
ನಂ.ತಾ.ಆ.ಅಂ/706/2024–2025 ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.01.2025
2025–2026 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಅಂಕೋಲಾ (ಜಿ।। ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ) ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' / ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08388–230249 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾದ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ'/ ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನೌಕರರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ 2.5%	ಷರಾ
1	ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು	20	54,63,936.00	1,36,598.00	

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ	18.01.2025
2	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	20.01.2025
3	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	18.02.2025 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 04.00ಘಂಟೆಗೆ
4	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ	19.02.2025 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 04.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ
5	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ	21.02.2025 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 04.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ

ಮೇಲಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜೆಯೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು
ಸಹಿ/–, ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ತಾಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಅಂಕೋಲಾ (ಉ.ಕ)

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Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division Udupi - 576101.
C.No: (0820) 2531802
No.PWD:UDN:NIT-32:2024-25:AE-2 Dated: 18.01.2025.
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
It is here by notified for the information of intending registered contractor, of Class - II and above in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender is 03.02.2025 upto 5.30PM through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" for New building construction work at kundapura (I.No.16830) under 4059 - Departemental building head, work costing Rs.208.43 Lakhs (excluding GST).
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public works, Dipartmetn,Udupi Division, Udupi

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LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE VIII ADDL.DISTRICT JUDGE OF CHITTOOR, A.P
O.S. No. 23 of 2019
Between:
Somappa and others ...Plaintiffs
And:
M.Manjunath and others ....Defendants
Summons to the 11th Defendant :-
To: Rathnamma, W/o Annaiah & D/o Venkataswamy, aged 40 years, Venkatapuram Village, NG Hullur PO-563 116, Bangarpet Taluk,Kolar District, Karnataka State.
Sir, Please take Summons that the above named Plaintiffs have filed a suit in O.S. No. 23/ 2019 for declaration of right, title and grant permanent injunction. The above O.S. No. 23/ 2019 is posted to 31-01-2025 for your appearance. Please be present on the said date at about 10-30 A.M. before the said court either in person or through an advocate and to file your objections if any, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence as exparte.
Sd/- (D.REDDEPPA REDDY)
Advocate for Plaintiffs.
Place: Chittoor. Date: 16-01-2025.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT ANEKAL
OS No. 751/2024
BETWEEN:
Smt. Mousumi Nag ...Plaintiff
AND:
Mr. Shiva ...Defendant
Suit Summons to the Defendant Under Order 5 Rule 20 (1-A) of CPC
Mr. Shiva,
S/o Krishnan Palaniswamy,
Aged about 37 years,
R/at Flat No.WD-404, West Block, Shriram Smrithi Apartment, Sarjapura Attibele Road, Malenahalli, S. Medihalli Village, Bidaraguppe Post, Bengaluru-562 107 ...Defendant
Whereas, Plaintiff has instituted above suit against you for the reliefs of Eviction and recovery of arrears of rent and maintenance amount and other consequential reliefs in respect of West Block # WD Flat No WD-404, Situated in 4th Floor, Block C containing three bed rooms in residential building known as "Sriram Smrithi Residential Complex" situated at Bidaraguppe Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru. Hence you are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit on the 25.02.2025 at 11:00 am to answer the claim. On your failure to appear on the above said date, the case will be determined ex-parte against all of you.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 15th day of January 2025, at Anekal.
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristedar
Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Anekal
Advocate for Plaintiff:
A.M Srinivasa Reddy, Advocate
1st Cross, Vijaykumar Layout, Opp. to Anekal Court Complex, Anekal-562 106.

SITUATION VACANT
GENERAL
CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-4, TN.
WANTED
CMC Vellore, Tamil Nadu, is looking for Sr. Manager, Manager, Assistant Manager, Sr. Officer & Officer for Finance & Accounts department.
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Age : Below 35 years
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Qualification : ACA/ACMA with over 7 years of post-qualification in Finance and Accounts of large organization.
Age : Below 45 years
MANAGER (Finance and Accounts)
Qualification : ACA/ACMA with over 12 years of post -qualification in Finance and Accounts of large organization and at least 5 years at senior level.
Age : Below 45 years
SR. MANAGER (Finance and Accounts)
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Application through other Job portal will not be considered and hard copies will not be accepted. For clarifications, emails may be sent to gso2@cmcvellore.ac.in. No direct phone calls / personal appointments will be entertained. Shortlisted candidates alone will be informed of the Interview / Selection process.

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, VELLORE
MCOP.No.105/2023
P. Mohanabai and others ...Petitioners
-Vs-
M/s. Nee Vee Travels, Bangalore and another ...Respondents
Notice to the 1st Respondent
R1. M/s. NEE VEE Travels, 2nd Floor, No.11 & 12, Maruthi Complex, Opp. to FMC Hoysala Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016.
Please take notice that the above petitioners have filed the above MCOP claiming compensation for death of M.S.Sundaramoorthy in the road accident as against the respondents herein before the Hon'ble 1st Addl. District Judge, Vellore and it is posted to 14.02.2025 for your appearance before the above court. Unless you appear before the above court, either in person or through an authorized agent, at 10.30 A.M. You will be called and set exparte and an order will be passed against you in your absence.
M.S. NAVUKKARASU, B.Sc., LLB., Advocate, No.190/14, Greenfields Apartments, Anna Nagar West Extn., Chennai - 600101, Tamil Nadu. Cell : 9786055443

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Cess on vehicle registrations likely from February

This follows the passage of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Assembly last December

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From February, vehicle buyers in Karnataka may have to pay an additional cess of ₹500 for two-wheelers and ₹1,000 for cars during registration. This follows the passing of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Legislative Assembly last December.

The amendment to the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957, introduces this cess to create a dedicated welfare fund for workers in the transport industry, to address their social security and welfare needs.

The State government brought in the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Act, 2024, in March 2024, and set up a welfare board which will operate the welfare fund. The cess amount will be credited to this fund. This will work on the lines of the Karnataka Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Fund, financed by a similar cess imposed on construction activities.

Transport Department officials said that there are plans to implement the cess starting this February. "The department is preparing to enforce this new regulation from February. It is expected to generate a revenue of ₹300 crore annually," said a senior Transport Department official.

The amendment to the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957, has introduced this cess to create a dedicated welfare fund for workers in the transport industry, to address their social security and welfare needs. FILE PHOTO

The transport sector in Karnataka employs approximately 30 lakh people, including drivers, mechanics, and other associated staff.

"This cess will provide a permanent source of funding for the welfare of transport workers. We have also set up a board to oversee their well-being," said Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Mixed reactions

The announcement has elicited mixed reactions. While some see the move as necessary for supporting transport workers, others have expressed concerns about the additional financial burden.

"It's a good initiative to support transport workers, but vehicle costs are already high owing to taxes and insurance. This cess will further strain our budgets," said Naveen Kumar, a Rajajinagar resident who recently purchased a car.

On the other hand, Priya R., a two-wheeler owner, believes the move is justified. "Transport workers often face hardships with little support. If the money is genuinely used for their welfare, I am happy to contribute," she said.

Study shows high levels of physicochemical pollutants, pesticides in Arkavati

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A report on pollution levels in the Arkavati has revealed alarming levels of physicochemical pollutants, pesticides, heavy metals, and hazardous organic compounds that exceed both Indian and international standards and guidelines.

According to a report by Paani.Earth on 'Uncovering the Hidden Pollution in the Arkavathi: Emerging Contaminants Impacting Bengaluru and Beyond', samples were tested for 65 unique water and 20 unique sediment pollution parameters.

Paani.Earth, which conducted this study in collaboration with the International Centre for Clean Water in February and March 2024, evaluated dry-season pollution samples from seven sites along the Arkavati and its tributary, the Vrishabhavati.

Paani.Earth evaluated dry-season pollution samples from seven sites along the Arkavati and the Vrishabhavati. FILE PHOTO

This report then compared testing results to national and international standards and guidelines for freshwater and sediment pollution. The findings reveal alarming levels of physicochemical pollutants, pesticides, heavy metals, and hazardous organic compounds.

"Every single test site contained multiple pollutants exceeding recommended guidelines, posing major ecosystem and human health risks," the report stated.

Regarding pesticides, the report found that harmful substances with health impacts, such as heptachlor and DDT, were found at levels as high as 25,022 times the United States Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

It further added that with many pollutants exceeding national and international standards, it can cause severe risks to human and aquatic health, including cancer and hormone disruptions.

"Heavy metals also contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), posing an additional threat to public health and the environment," it added. It also blamed inadequate monitoring practices for alarming levels of pollution by stating that water quality monitoring guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board emphasise the importance of classifying sampling sites to identify and address pollutant sources effectively.

"However, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's monitoring programme under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) falls short. It simplifies the process by assigning sites basic rankings (A, B, C, D, or E) based on limited parameters, failing to account for critical emerging contaminants," it stated.

KSBC stops enrolment of law graduates from outside the State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC) has temporarily withheld the enrolment of advocates who procured their three-year law degrees from other States after the number of candidates who sought enrolment with fake degrees increased recently.

"Last month, we found out that 112 advocates had produced fake degrees and all of them were from Delhi. We have taken to this recourse earlier as well. This time the menace of fake degrees has increased many fold. We will soon discuss the issue in our meeting and take a call on the next course of action," said Shiva Kumar N., a member of KSBC.

The Karnataka State Bar Council has said that the number of candidates who sought enrolment with fake degrees has increased. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

He said that these degree certificates often have a pattern and many discrepancies. "They would have gotten their degrees from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh or Chhattisgarh, but their residential address would be in Bengaluru. Sometimes, even when we send for verification, fake degrees have been acknowledged as real degrees. Owing to all these problems, we are not enrolling advocates who have studied in other States," Mr. Kumar said.

While the KSBC directs advocates graduating from other States to take the bar exam in those respective districts and transfer to Karnataka, the advocates reportedly refuse.

> Last month, we found out that 112 advocates had produced fake degrees and all of them were from Delhi.
>
> **SHIVA KUMAR N.,**
> A member of Karnataka State Bar Council

Criticising the council's move, Supreme Court and High Court advocate Brijesh Kalappa said: "There is no guarantee whatsoever that candidates cannot forge documents of non-existent colleges or procure fake degrees from within the State of Karnataka. It is the responsibility of the Bar Council concerned to assess and definitively verify the bonafides of the candidates. That cannot be done by preventing candidates from other States from enrolling in the KSBC. Therefore, the KSBC's denial of enrolling such candidates smacks of unreasonable classification and arbitrariness and is therefore unconstitutional."

Dalit and students groups seek enactment of 'Rohith Act'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several Dalit and students organisations on Sunday reiterated their demand that the Union government should enact a 'Rohith Act', to tackle caste discrimination in educational institutions of the country.

People's Campaign for Rohith Act held a convention in the city on Sunday, in memory of Dalit scholar Rohith Vemula who ended his life over discrimination on January 17, 2016.

Rohith's mother and anti-caste activist Radhika Vemula remembered her son as a "brilliant student", but as someone who always faced discrimination. "Dalit students are institutionally discriminated against for receiving education. They have to overcome these hurdles to achieve dignity and upward mobility in their lives. It is because of the Bharatiya Janata Party that I am still being denied justice. I do not want any other mother to go through my pain," she said.

She also expressed solidarity with Gopal Das of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, "fighting caste discrimination in his institute".

Based on a complaint by Prof. Das and a probe by the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement, Karnataka, the city police had registered a FIR against the IIMB Director and seven other faculty members for alleged caste-based discrimination. The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the investigation into the FIR.

Techie loses ₹2.8 cr. to cyber crooks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accused withdrew money from the victim's account using a pre-installed app on the mobile phone that they sent to him, claiming that he had won it

The excitement about getting a brand new mobile phone in a lucky draw after purchasing a SIM card turned into sadness, after a software engineer lost a total of ₹2.8 crore.

The victim, working in a tech firm in the city and living in Whitefield, had purchased a new SIM card. Following this, some persons sent him a new mobile phone claiming he had won a lucky draw among those who bought SIM cards from the company. Excited by this, the victim installed the SIM in the mobile phone he received by parcel.

The phone had a pre-installed app which allowed the accused to access all his personal data, using which the accused accessed the victim's bank account and withdrew all the money online.

The transaction was made from outside the country using different gateways, a police officer said, adding that efforts are on to track down the accused.

City police review security following recent bank robberies in Bidar, Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, along with all senior police officials, patrolled the city, took charge of selected stations and interacted with the staff and visitors

After two high-profile bank robberies in Bidar and Mangaluru recently, police units across several districts and Bengaluru city have taken up a security audit and review.

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, along with all senior police officials, patrolled the city, took charge of selected police stations, and interacted with staff and people who visited them recently.

Mr. Dayananda took charge as the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sadashivanagar station between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Saturday.

In addition to patrolling, the police officials checked commercial establishments, including late-night stores and ATMs, ensuring their security arrangements were intact.

Specific attention was paid to poorly-lit areas, isolated streets, and locations with a history of criminal activity.

"This exercise aimed to restore public confidence, deter further criminal activities, and get updates of the existing security measures and patrolling system to discuss ways and means to improve it," a senior city police official said.

Similar exercises were carried out in the Central Range covering Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Chickballapur, Kolar, KGF, and other districts.

"While senior police officials patrolled their areas in the night, SHOs have been holding meetings with bank officials and representatives of cash management and transport firms to discuss their security protocols and coordination with the police," Labhu Ram, Inspector-General of Police (Central Range) told *The Hindu*. Now, the focus is on security protocols at banks, ATM kiosks, and cash transfer vehicles.

"We have noted down certain points for improvement and these will be worked upon in the short term," a city police official said.

Following this, patrolling teams were strategically deployed across high-risk areas identified through previous incidents and community reports. Officers conducted door-to-door interactions in select neighbourhoods, encouraging residents to report suspicious activities and adopt safety measures such as improved lighting and secure locks.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JAN. 20		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:15
RISE	23:35	SET 10:59
TUESDAY, JAN. 21		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:16
RISE	00:00	SET 11:34
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:16
RISE	00:20	SET 12:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	22
Mysuru	26	18
Bengaluru	21	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
24°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Bengalureans wake up to a wet Sunday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru woke up to a wet Sunday as several parts of the city received light showers. The unseasonal rain which began in the wee hours lasted throughout the day. As per the India Meteorological Centre (IMD) Bengaluru's observation data recorded at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday, Bengaluru city station recorded 3.3 mm rainfall, the HAL Airport and the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) stations recorded 4.2 mm and 2.2 mm, respectively.

The IMD data released at 5.30 p.m. stated that from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Bengaluru city recorded 1.9 mm rainfall, HAL Airport received 3.1 mm, and KIA received 0.5 mm, respectively.

Bengaluru saw unseasonal rain on Sunday which began in the wee hours and lasted throughout the day. K. MURALI KUMAR

On Sunday, Bengaluru city recorded a maximum of 21.4 degrees Celsius, HAL and KIA recorded a maximum of 21.9 and 21.7 degrees Celsius, respectively. The minimum temperature recorded in Bengaluru city was 18.2 degrees Celsius and at HAL and KIA the minimum temperatures were 17 and 16.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

C.S. Patil, scientist and director, IMD Bengaluru, said that most districts of south-interior Karnataka had received rainfall.

"Most districts of south-interior Karnataka which include Kolar, Chickballapur, Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Hassan and also Dakshina Kannada received rainfall," Mr. Patil said.

The IMD said that a trough in easterlies over south-west Bay of Bengal off the Tamil Nadu coast at 0.9 km above the mean sea level has become less marked.

The IMD forecast for the next 36 hours for Bengaluru city and the neighbouring areas, issued at 6 p.m., said that there would be partly cloudy skies, shallow fog and mist likely during the early morning hours in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 26°C and 16°C respectively.

Madlabs inaugurated once again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Madlabs, a science-themed entertainment park, at Snow City was inaugurated again on Sunday.

The project is an initiative of Seed2Sapling Education, Snow City, and Creatistics, aimed at providing an engaging and educational experience for all ages.

Aswathi, a visitor, shared: "I came with my nephew, but I'm also having fun. It's a wonderful way to entertain yourself, and I believe people of all ages should visit. It's a place where you can enjoy quality time."

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Indian cryptography research gears up to face the quantum challenge

Areas where Indian researchers are working extensively include communication complexity, the amount of communication required to complete a computational task; proof complexity, the computational resources required to prove or disprove statements; and algebraic coding theory

T.V. Padma

At the heart of any cryptosystem is the key, a secret value an algorithm uses to decrypt, or unlock, data. JAYDEEP_/PIXABAY

Fundamental research in cryptography that's used worldwide to facilitate internet banking, e-commerce services, and secure messaging systems is now taking root in India as well.

The principal goal of those developing or using cryptographic systems is to improve system security. Cryptography – from the English roots of "hidden writing" – is the name for techniques that secure information by converting plain text into ciphertext. It is concerned with the creation and use of encrypted messages that only the sender and the receiver can understand and which a malicious actor who interferes with the communication can't.

Sending secret messages isn't new. Archaeologists have unearthed clay tablets made by the ancient Mesopotamians in which they wrote down cryptic formulae to make ceramic glazes. In the first century BC, the Roman dictator Julius Caesar used the eponymous Caesar cipher to relay messages of strategic value to his generals.

More recently, many Polish codebreakers fled their country after Adolf Hitler invaded it in 1939 to work with reputed British mathematicians, including the father of modern computing, Alan Turing, to crack Germany's famed Enigma cryptosystem. Turing's work in particular established much of the foundational theory for modern algorithmic computing.

Scientists have devised many sophisticated methods to prevent adversaries from cracking secret codes and gaining unauthorised access to sensitive information. These methods achieve their goals by using algorithms and protocols to protect some data's confidentiality, integrity, authenticatability, and non-repudiation.

'Hard' problems

Cryptographic algorithms convert messages in ways that make it very difficult, very expensive, or both to decode them. A common way to achieve this has been to place some sensitive information behind the answer to a very difficult problem. An agent can access the information by solving the problem, so the harder the problem, the more inaccessible the information.

"Hence the search for harder and harder problems – for instance, even those that quantum computers may find hard to solve," R. Ramanujam of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, said.

As computational techniques evolve, particularly with advancements in quantum computing, the interplay between complexity and cryptography will continue to be a crucial area of research and development, he added.

Modern cryptographic systems are built on problems that demand far too many resources to be solved.

"As they say in the crypto community, if your cryptosystem is broken, either a spy is dead or a million dollars is missing," Ayan Mukherjee, an assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, said. "Such is the seriousness of the effect of a broken cryptosystem. Thus, oftentimes, people use the old and the trusted to secure their communications."

This is also why, he added, "The field of cryptography is very slow-moving."

"There is a close connection between complexity theory and cryptography, hence many [researchers] work on these connections, clarifying notions and building finer techniques," Ramanujam said.

Areas where Indian researchers are working extensively include communication complexity (the amount of communication required to complete a computational task), proof complexity (the computational resources required to prove or disprove statements), and algebraic coding theory (using algebra to encode and decode data).

Locks and keys

The goal is to make sure an adversary, especially one with enormous computational resources, can't crack the code. At the heart of any cryptosystem is the key: a secret value an algorithm uses to encrypt or decrypt data.

The Caesar cipher is a simple example. It works by mapping the existing alphabet to one where the starting letter is offset by some number of letters. This number is the key. For example, if the key is 14, the encrypted alphabet begins with the letter O (the 14th letter) rather than A. Thus the words FIGHT FOR ROME become TWUVH TCF FCAS.

When the sender encrypts data with a key, only someone who knows the key can decrypt the message and read it. More sophisticated systems use two keys – one each for the sender and the receiver – and map them in a separate secret way.

A famous example is public-key cryptography, which is used to secure information over the internet. The receiver uses a single algorithm to generate two keys called the public key and the private key, and shares the public key with the sender. Any message the sender encrypts with the public key can be decrypted by the private key.

Researchers prefer the algorithms that generate keys to be one-way functions, a name in mathematics for functions that are simple to use but hard to crack. In cryptography, this means they can be used to easily encrypt messages but can't be cracked without knowing the key. As Ramanujam put it, the challenge is like protecting a house with a strong alarm system that the house's residents can still use without training.

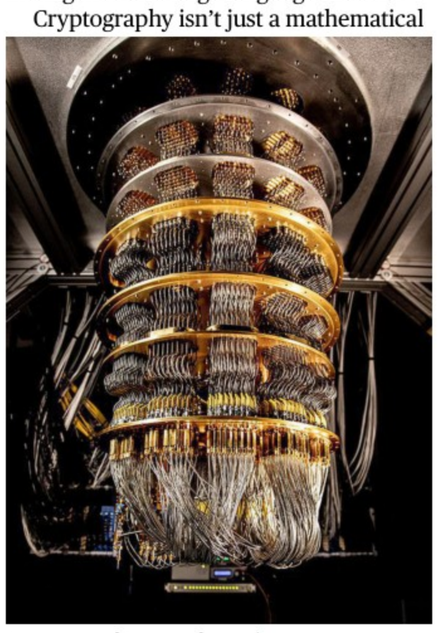
Some one-way functions are very difficult to crack and thus very secure – but they also take a long time to decrypt messages. This is one of the principal reasons mining for bitcoins has become a very energy-intensive process. The bitcoin system uses a one-way function that has required more computational resources to decrypt messages as the size of its blockchain has increased.

This is why some cryptography researchers in India and abroad are working on simplifying the decryption side in particular. Researchers are also considering whether shorter proofs (of the hard problems) can be used to verify the integrity of data in artificial intelligence and large language models.

Cryptography isn't just a mathematical or academic curiosity but is of considerable practical interest, Yael Kalai, whose work on proofs won her the 2022 Turing Award, told the 11th Heidelberg Laureate Forum in September (the author was in the audience). "In today's world, the biggest problem we have to solve is trustworthiness," she said.

Since researchers have solved the problem of authentication and security in communications, she added, the current problem is computation.

"People are computing things for us. How do we know that they are computing correctly? How do we certify the huge and often crazy computations people are coming up with? That is a huge new research problem now."



A cryostat refrigerator for cooling quantum computing chips at Google's Quantum AI lab in Santa Barbara, California, U.S. REUTERS

Possibility of disruption

Two research areas that could disrupt current cryptographic systems with significant economic and social consequences are homomorphic encryption and quantum information technologies, per a recent paper by the Organisation of Economically Developed Countries (OECD).

Homomorphic encryption is a cryptographic method that allows certain calculations to be performed on encrypted data without the need to decrypt it first and without accessing the secret key. The result of such computations remains in encrypted form and can be revealed later, when necessary. According to the paper, this technique could surmount the problem of processing encrypted data without decrypting it first, which increases risk.

Second, a mature quantum computer could easily break some encryption methods widely used today. Some researchers are thus working on algorithms that can resist attacks powered by a quantum computer, an enterprise called quantum resistant cryptography (QRC). In fact, marrying cryptography with quantum physics paves the way for encryption technologies based on the laws of quantum physics, which can be more convoluted than mathematical concepts alone.

Researchers worldwide have been working on QRC since 2006, including in publicly funded research projects in the European Union and Japan. In India, Mukherjee's group at IISER Pune, and those at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Raman Research Institute (RRI), both in Bengaluru; the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi; and at Pondicherry University are working on it as well.

'A huge deal'

Cryptography research in India is taking off in other aspects, too, catching up with that in the European Union, the U.S., and China. The National Quantum Mission the Cabinet approved in 2023 includes a research hub for quantum communication. The mission is to enable

A mature quantum computer could easily break some encryption methods widely used today. Some researchers are thus working on algorithms that can resist attacks powered by a quantum computer, an enterprise called quantum resistant cryptography

satellite-based secure quantum communications between ground stations over 2,000 km, long-distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2,000 km, and multi-node quantum networks, among other outcomes.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is also planning to launch a satellite with ultra-secure quantum communication capabilities.

In July, a team of Indian scientists from RRI, IISc, IISER Thiruvananthapuram, and the Bose Institute in Kolkata published a paper describing a way to generate true random numbers that are crucial to making secure private keys and nearly unhackable passwords.

"This new method offers the enhanced protection we all need in our daily lives by using truly random numbers to generate keys that will be used to encrypt the passwords," the Department of Science & Technology said in a statement.

Apart from the Ministry of Science & Technology, major government funders for cryptography research in the country include the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Telecommunications.

"The present status of quantum cryptography is to build quantum-secure cryptosystems," Mukherjee said. "It's based on the idea that, in the near future, we will have quantum computers. When that happens, the current cryptosystems will fail. This is a huge deal."

The consequences will also affect India's cryptography policy. According to a recent study commissioned by the Thales Group, the volume of sensitive data in the cloud could surge from 51% of all organisational data to 68% by 2027. As more data enters and lives in the cloud, "encryption techniques for data at rest, in motion, and in use are becoming more pervasive, evolving into a standard practice for protecting cloud-resident sensitive information against emerging cyber threats," the report said.

There is widespread data loss as well: the report said almost three-fourths of all organisations have faced multiple data breaches in the past year, foremost due to inadequate encryption. Some 71% initiated formal cryptographic programmes and 81% have dedicated encryption teams.

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in)

A boat carrying domestic tourists passing through hyacinth in Lake Naivasha last December. AP

Water hyacinth threatens the livelihoods of fishers on Kenyan lake

Associated Press

For someone who fishes for a living, nothing says a bad day like spending over 18 hours on a lake and taking home nothing.

Recently, a group of fishermen were stranded on Kenya's popular Lake Naivasha for that long and blamed the water hyacinth that has taken over large parts of it.

"They did not realise that the hyacinth would later entrap them," said fellow fisherman Simon Macharia. The men even lost their nets, he said.

The water hyacinth is native to South America and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the 1980s "by tourists who brought it as an ornamental plant," said Gordon Ocholla, an environmental scientist at Mount Kenya University.

Water hyacinth was first sighted on Lake Naivasha about 10 years ago. Now it has become a large, glossy mat that can cover swathes of the lake. To fishers, the invasive plant is a threat to livelihoods.

Usually, the presence of water hyacinth is linked to pollution. It is known to thrive in the presence of contaminants and grows quickly and is considered the most invasive aquatic plant species in the world, Ocholla said.

It can block sunlight and impact airflow, affecting the quality of aquatic life. This has caused a drastic drop in the population of fish in Lake Naivasha and some other affected areas.

The *East African Journal of Environment and Natural Resources* estimated in a 2023 study that the invasion of water hyacinth in Kenyan

The water hyacinth is native to South America and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the 1980s 'by tourists who brought it as an ornamental plant'

lakes – including Lake Victoria, Africa's largest – has led to annual losses of between $150 million and $350 million in Kenya's fishing, transport, and tourism sectors.

The fishermen at Lake Naivasha know that well. "Previously we would catch up to 90 kg of fish per day, but nowadays we get between 10 kg and 15 kg," Macharia said. This means daily earnings have dropped from $210 to $35.

There are several ways to deal with the plant, including physically removing it, Ocholla said. Another method is introducing organisms that feed on it. Or chemicals can be sprayed to kill the plant, "but this is not favorable as it would harm other aquatic life."

Recently the fishers, through a Kenyan start-up called HyaPak, began using a method that converts water hyacinth into biodegradable packaging.

HyaPak started in 2022 as a project at Egerton University in Kenya. HyaPak founder Joseph Nguthiru said the company is trying to use one problem, the hyacinth, "to solve the plastic waste pollution" problem.

HyaPak has entered into a partnership with the fishers, who harvest the water hyacinth and sun-dry it for a negotiable fee. Then it is transported to a HyaPak facility to be converted into biodegradable paper material.

The company works with 50 fishers at Lake Naivasha and processes up to 150 kg of water hyacinth per week, converting it to 4,500 biodegradable packages.

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Man held for attacking wife, mother-in-law

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Banashankari police arrested a 30-year-old labourer on Saturday for assaulting his wife and his mother-in-law with a sword, after accusing his wife of an extramarital affair with her college friend.

According to the police, Hina Kousar, 25, sustained multiple injuries with over 50 stitches all over her body and was admitted to the Victoria Hospital.

She is said to be "out of danger", but continues to be under observation. Her mother Praveen Taj, 50, was also being treated at the hospital.

Couple separated

The police said that Asif and Hina were married a few years ago. The couple had two children and lived in Banashankari. However, the couple separated after Hina caught Asif having an affair.

Hina moved to her mother's house and was looking for a job. She sought help from her college friends, said the police.

When Asif came to know about this, he mistook it for an affair. He barged into Hina's house armed with a sword, and attacked her. Parveen who rushed in to save her daughter was also attacked, according to the police.

The neighbours who came hearing their screams informed the police and rushed the two to hospital. Sensing trouble, Asif threw the sword outside the house and escaped.

The police have registered a case of attempt to murder against Asif.

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Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology Students Shine at Smart India Hackathon 2024

Students of Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology achieved a remarkable victory in the Smart India Hackathon 2024 grand finale conducted by Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India on 11th and 12th December 2024 under the Agriculture theme, software edition by securing first prize.

In recognition of their success, Dr. AIT management has awarded the team, prize money to incubate their idea and support them to setup STARTUP company.

The student Team members Rohith Krishna KV Goutham KP, Lisha S Gowda, Afnaan Ayub, Aditya Swadi, and Akash Kumar Singh under the guidance of Dr Tanuja Patgar supported by Dr.Shylaja.B S , Dean (iii). Together, they developed "Earthworm: The Farmers' Friend", a super app designed to transform the agricultural ecosystem. The app operates on a B2B business model, connecting farmers directly to businesses, allowing them to bypass middlemen and build their own brands.

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Habitual offenders externed by the Delhi Police in 2024

1,100 Done under the Delhi Police Act, the externment process which is aimed at maintaining peace is used to keep criminals away from specific areas for a set period. Data reveals that in 2022, the Delhi Police externed 716 people and in 2023, 619. PTI

The five-year rubber plantation target that Tripura surpassed

30,000 hectare. The target was set under an initiative of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), and Tripura is now aiming to increase the plantation to 69,000 hectares. PTI

Number of farmers who ended their fast-unto-death protest

121 Dallewal (70), who has refused any aid since he sat on a fast-unto-death on November 26, agreed to take medical aid following the Centre's invitation for talks on February 14 to discuss farmers' demands. A group of 111 farmers had joined Dallewal's fast on January 15. PTI

Number of TikTok users in the U.S., as the app shuts down

170 million. TikTok users in the U.S. are no longer able to watch videos on the social media platform as a federal ban on the immensely popular app takes effect. The company's app was removed from prominent app stores, including the ones operated by Apple and Google. AP

French champagne shipments drop in 2024

10 In per cent. Economic and political uncertainties hit consumers' appetite for the sparkling wine in key markets. Producers had called for a cut in the grapes harvested this year after sales fell more than 15% in the first half of 2024. REUTERS

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How is TRAI and the govt. combating spam?

How will blockchain technology effectively counter spam? What are some of the steps being taken by the government against unsolicited commercial communications? Have some of the measures already taken been effective against unwanted calls and messages? What is a do-not-disturb registry?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

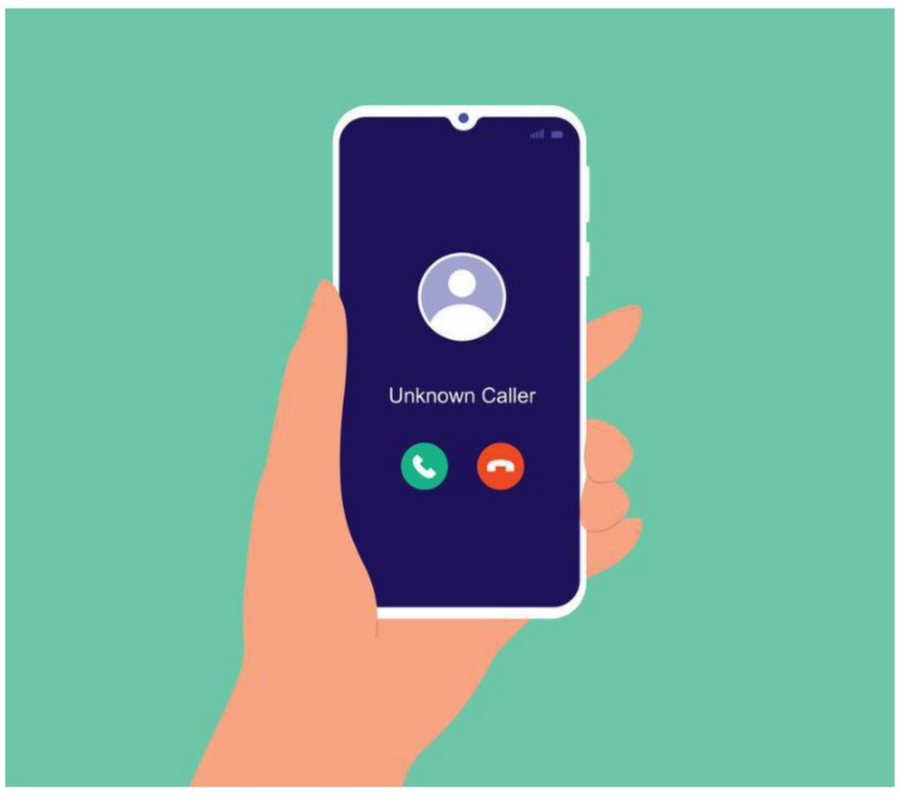
The story so far:
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will be using distributed ledger technology (DLT) to register spam preferences from customers, TRAI chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said. Spam rules will be tightened to make commercial messages traceable, the TRAI has indicated.

What is TRAI's role in fighting spam?
The TRAI regulates the telecom industry, and its main role is in regulating Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC), the official name for spam. Starting in 2007, the regulator implemented a do-not-disturb (DND) registry, which would force telemarketers to abide by customer preferences when it came to commercial calls.

If a telecom customer signs up to the DND registry, they are not supposed to get any spam calls or SMS messages.

TRAI had also worked with an external agency to develop a DND app, which would allow customers to register their DND preference, and accept complaints. Under the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation (TCCCPR), 2018, telemarketers who called or sent messages to DND-registered customers would receive warnings, and if enough warnings accumulated, they would be blacklisted from sending messages to telecom operators.

The DND app has not always been maintained by the TRAI, and was briefly unavailable from 2022 onwards. An SMS reporting facility where users would have to report messages in a particular format was available, but further steps were taken to make the process more user friendly. In 2024, TRAI mandated that DND reporting be made available on every telecom provider's app.



GETTY IMAGES

What role does blockchain play?
In order to fight the deluge of spam messages, TRAI mandated in the TCCCPR that telcos use a blockchain ledger, also known as a distributed ledger, in order to store a constantly-updated list of approved senders of SMS messages. Telcos would also be required to approve specific formats of messages. For instance, an OTP message that goes, "Your OTP is 433212," would be stored in the blockchain as "Your OTP is ..." with space for a variable. These messages have been required to be sent from sender IDs, and not phone numbers.

This has been one of the most stringent rules that have been issued to fight SMS spam anywhere in the world. Blockchain as a technology allows for so-called immutability, which means that every stakeholder involved in a transaction has a reliable, un-tamperable version of the same data. At the time of the 2018 regulations, the necessity to use blockchain for the purpose of maintaining a spam exemption database was debated, as enthusiasm about the technology's potential had spilled over beyond cryptocurrencies, where it continues to be a mainstay.

In 2024, the regulations were tightened to ensure "traceability" of messages, thus making sure that telcos would have a complete record of who issued a message before it is sent to an SMS gateway. This was aimed at plugging a crucial flaw in the system that would allow anyone to register on the blockchain solutions implemented by telecom operators and send out fraudulent or spam messages in spite of the systems in place to combat them. These, Mr. Lahoti has said, will be further tightened in the coming year.

Have these measures been effective?
For those who have registered their DND preferences, communications from legitimate businesses that follow the rules may have reduced. However, spam has a constantly changing character. While much of spam is merely commercial messages that may be annoying but harmless, the wave of digitisation has increased incentives to get around the protections against commercial messaging and calling. A wave of fraudulent calls have also emerged, with cyber frauds seeking to ensnare Indians in financial scams. Many of these operations are done outside the framework of SMS sender IDs, and are run through disposable 10-digit phone numbers, making it hard for real-time enforcement of anti-spam regulations.

There is also the issue of spam and scam calls from international numbers, which can be leased from certain online Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers, but appear as legitimate international call traffic.

Which are the other steps taken by the government to end spam?
The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Sanchar Saathi portal, which has a reporting site called Chakshu. DoT has partnered with law enforcement, banks, and other stakeholders in order to accept reports of "suspected fraudulent" calls and messages, and has moved to cancel lakhs of numbers that are associated with unauthorised telemarketers and scammers.

It also set up the Telecom Security Operation Centre at its New Delhi headquarters to monitor suspicious internet traffic in real time. Meanwhile, firms like Airtel have taken steps to declare suspicious calls using Artificial Intelligence as "Suspected Spam," a move that is being replicated by other telcos as well. The telco has also started labelling international calls on smartphones.

THE GIST

- The TRAI regulates the telecom industry, and its main role is in regulating Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC), the official name for spam.
- Spam has a constantly changing character. While much of spam is merely commercial messages that may be annoying but harmless, the wave of digitisation has increased incentives to get around the protections against commercial messaging and calling.
- Firms like Airtel have taken steps to declare suspicious calls using Artificial Intelligence as "Suspected Spam," a move that is being replicated by other telcos as well.

What did the ILO report state about international migrants?

Why are there more male international migrants in the global labour force than women? Which are the countries that have absorbed the most international migrant workers?

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:
By addressing labour market shortages in host nations and contributing remittances to home countries, International Migrants (IM) continue to make contributions to world economic growth, the fourth edition of 'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers', released by the International Labour Organization (ILO), said.

What did the ILO state?
In 2022, IMs made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013. An estimated 155.6 million were employed and 12.1 million unemployed. The share of IM men in the total employment for males globally was estimated at 4.7% and that of IM women at 4.4%. However, between 2019-2022, the rate of growth dipped annually to less than 1%, influenced among other factors by the pandemic.

What about age and gender?
A higher proportion of IM males were employed – 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million. Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022. All the same, the number of women IMs has steadily risen ever since the ILO began compiling global estimates in 2015.

One explanation for the smaller proportion of women in the global labour force is their lower representation in the total population of IMs.

At 74.9% (125.6 million), prime-age adult IM workers – those aged between 25 and 54 years, both men and women – constituted the largest majority of IM workers in the labour force in 2022. Less than one out of 10 IMs were below 25. Way behind the above category, at 9.3% were young IM workers, aged between 15-24 years, numbering 15.5 million, in the global labour force. IMs aged between 55-64 years were 12.5% and those above 65 at 3.4%.

Which economic sectors attract IMs?
The largest proportion of IMs, 68.4%, were concentrated in the services sector, even higher than non-migrants. Women IMs held the dominant share in this arena at 80.7%, as against 60.8% among their male counterparts. The corresponding figures for non-migrant women and men in the services industry were 59.4% and 46.3% respectively. Significantly, the dominance of IMs in this sector has remained consistent over the decade, upwards of 67% between 2013-2022. In industry, the proportion of IMs was 24.3% and that of non-migrants 24.2%. In agriculture, IMs accounted for 7.4%, whereas non-migrants were at a significantly higher share of 24.3%.

Which are the main host countries?
High-income countries absorbed the largest number of IMs, accounting for 68.4% (114 million people), in key sectors such as services, especially in the provision of care. At about a quarter of this share, 17.4% (29.2 million), were distributed among upper-middle-income countries. For an entire decade between 2013-2022, high-income and upper-middle-income countries have consistently remained primary destinations for IMs.

The share of IM workers in northern, southern and western Europe in the year 2022 was at 23.3%, increasing by less than one percentage point after 2013. In Northern America on the other hand, the share of IMs in the labour force in 2022 was at 22.6%, a more than one percentage point decrease over the same decade. The Arab states accounted for 13.3% of IM workers in 2022, down three percentage points over 2013. A combination of ageing populations, growing demand in the care economy and greater economic opportunities means that high income countries will continue to remain attractive destinations for the bulk of IMs.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- In 2022, IMs made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013.
- High-income countries absorbed the largest number of IMs, accounting for 68.4% (114 million people), in key sectors such as services, especially in the provision of care.
- A higher proportion of IM males were employed; 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million. Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022.

Internal tussle in BJP reaches a flashpoint

Vijayendra's supporters decide to visit Delhi to seek expulsion of Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The internal tussle in the Opposition BJP reached a flashpoint on Sunday with supporters of party State president B.Y. Vijayendra announcing that they would soon go to Delhi to urge the party central leadership to expel rebel leaders Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi from the party for their continued tirade against the former and his father and veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

The development came a day after Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan indicated that an election would be held to choose the State unit president.

While Mr. Vijayendra asserted at a public programme that there was no question of him retracting from his aim or the step taken by him, his supporters and former Ministers M.P. Renukacharya and Katta Subramanya Naidu addressed an emergency press conference in which they demanded an immediate expulsion of Mr. Yatnal and Mr. Jarkiholi from the party.

B.Y. Vijayendra

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal

To meet on Saturday

They said they would meet here on Saturday to hold further discussion on the issue before leaving for Delhi.

Taking serious exception to Mr. Yatnal and Mr. Jarkiholi's remarks likening Mr. Vijayendra to a child, they said the State party chief had already made his mark in politics and proved his mettle through his organisational skills.

Launching a counter-attack on the rebels, Mr. Vijayendra's supporters described them as Congress agents, while alleging that they were trying to create a rift in the BJP to divert public attention from the failures and fissures in the Congress government.

Taking serious exception to the recent tirade of rebels against Mr. Vijayendra, they warned that they would no longer tolerate such criticism.

On his part, Mr. Yatnal continued to attack Mr. Vijayendra and accused him of being responsible for Mr. Yediyurappa going to jail. He reiterated that they would not accept him as their leader.

Meanwhile, speculation was rife in the BJP that its State general secretary and former Minister V. Sunil Kumar wanted to be relieved of the organisational post. However, party sources said they were yet to receive any formal communication in this regard from Mr. Sunil Kumar.

After Kharge's reprimand, Ministers become cagey about leadership issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge's warning on speaking about the leadership issue, State Ministers who were earlier vocal on it chose to remain quiet or refused to get into a discussion on it, on Sunday.

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said that there was nothing wrong on Mr. Kharge's part to have underlined the need for discipline in the party.

"Mr. Kharge has asked Ministers and legislators not to speak about the party affairs in public. His political experience is more than my age. If someone has a problem, they can discuss the issue with the president or general secretary of the party," he told reporters here.

Claiming that the party, which had 139 legislators, remained united, Mr. Patil said that the high command decided on everything in the party. "M.B. Patil, Satish Jarkiholi and Parameshwara cannot do anything. On the other hand in the BJP, Ramesh Jarkiholi, Basannagouda R. Patil Yatnal, and B.Y. Vijayendra are addressing one another in the singular and are fighting."

M.B. Patil

G. Parameshwara

He also reiterated that 25 legislators from BJP and Janata Dal (S) were ready to join the Congress unconditionally.

Mr. Patil also refuted the claim of Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy that the Karnataka government was not cooperating in industrial growth.

"We have met him with proposals for the State. I will meet Union Ministers again. Mr. Kumaraswamy should also give up his ego and meet the Chief Minister to bring more industries to the State," he said.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara refused to comment on the party issue, saying: "I will not respond to political questions. Our [AICC] president has asked us to work. We will work."

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, another Minister to speak in public, told reporters in Hubballi that the post of KPCC president and that of the Chief Minister were not vacant since they were occupied by D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah respectively.

"Our party operates under the high command and we will not cross the line drawn by them. Any decision will be taken by the party and unnecessary speculation is unwarranted," he said.

Khandre's statement

Meanwhile, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre told reporters in Chamarajanagar that the government would continue under the leadership of Mr. Siddaramaiah for five years.

The Minister's response came after he was asked if Mr. Siddaramaiah would continue for five years as Chief Minister. "What kind of a question is this? We are continuing under him now and will continue under him for five years."

Village in Mandya district chosen for PM-JANMAN scheme

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Tribal community at Poovanahalli in K.R. Pet taluk to be empowered under it

Poovanahalli in K.R. Pet taluk of Mandya district has been chosen under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) scheme aimed at bringing people from the tribal community into the mainstream by empowering them socially and economically.

A statement from Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, who also represents Mandya in the Lok Sabha, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the scheme last year to develop villages inhabited by tribal people.

63,000 villages in all

Under the scheme, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Centre seeks to develop 63,000 villages across the country through the ₹79,000-crore scheme.

More than 25 programmes, including education, health, housing, sanitation, infrastructure, clean drinking water, and skill development, will be implemented through 18 departments.

Housing, water supply

The statement said the scheme is being implemented with the aim of providing housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, health, nutrition, roads, and telecommunication to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities. Training will also be provided to encourage tribal cottage industries.

The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has set several criteria for the inclusion of villages in the scheme and Poovanahalli was selected as per the criteria set by the Ministry, Mr. Kumaraswamy said before adding that more villages would be brought under the scheme in the coming days.

'All are welcome for Belagavi events, except those in BJP'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Unveiling of Mahatma Gandhi statue to be followed by 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' convention

Top Congress leaders will be arriving in Belagavi to attend the programmes to mark the centenary of the Congress session held in the city that was chaired by Mahatma Gandhi even as KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said that except people from the BJP anyone can attend these events.

According to Mr. Shivakumar, who is overseeing the organisation of the events around the unveiling of Gandhi's statue and a convention titled 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan', AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi will be arriving on Tuesday. They will take part in the programme to unveil the statue on the premises of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi and later attend the convention.

"Preparation for the programmes is under way. Ministers K.H. Muniyappa and M.C. Sudhakar, who have been given specific tasks to execute during these programmes, are in Belagavi. G. Parameshwara will be arriving. They will be working efficiently," Mr. Shivakumar told pressperson in Belagavi.

D.K. Shivakumar

When asked about the number of people expected to attend the events, Mr. Shivakumar said: "We have invited the public to attend the event. Anyone can come. I cannot put a number to those attending. This convention is about Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and the Constitution. Except those in the BJP, anyone interested in protecting the country, the Constitution, and believers in the thoughts of Gandhiji can come."

Meanwhile, on the alleged diversion of 5 tmcft of water from the Hidkal reservoir to the Dharwad Industrial Area, Mr. Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, said Hukkeri legislator Nikhil Katti had brought certain things to his notice, and that he had asked for a report. "We will take action after receiving the report. When we are unable to provide 5 tmcft to Bengaluru, how is it possible here? Official permissions are required for any water release. There are specific calculations whether it is for agricultural or industrial use."

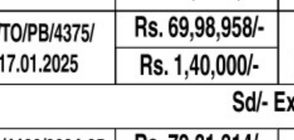
He said: "We have increased the user fee on water supplied to industries and the Centre has issued guidelines on this. It has come up with a new policy on water. We will refer to it in the next legislature session."

State brings bone marrow transplantation under AB-ArK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cardiologist and Bengaluru Rural MP C.N. Manjunath welcomed on Sunday the State government's decision to include free bone marrow transplantation under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK).

"Bone marrow transplantation is required for patients suffering from bone cancer, thalassemia, aplastic anaemia, and other haematological-related disorders. Currently, this particular procedure costs about ₹20 lakh to ₹40 lakh in private hospitals and about ₹10 lakh to ₹12 lakh in public hospitals," he said in a statement on social media platform X. He said that now with bone marrow transplantation being included as a coded procedure, it will be done free of cost in empanelled hospitals. "It is a great boon for patients in the BPL category who will immensely benefit by this initiative." He thanked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, and Principal Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department Harsh Gupta.


C.N. Manjunath, cardiologist and Bengaluru Rural MP, had written to the State government on the issue.

In October 2024, the MP wrote to the State government to include bone marrow transplantation under AB-ArK and Jeevan Sarthakathe schemes since transplantation of heart, lung, liver, and kidney are already included. "On an average, about 75 to 100 patients suffering from bone cancer, thalassemia, aplastic anaemia and other related haematological disorders require bone marrow transplantation in Karnataka," he had said in the letter.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/4375/ 2024-25 Date: 17.01.2025	Rs. 69,98,958/- / Rs. 1,40,000/-	03.02.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	04.02.2025 after 4:30 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West)-2.
2	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4466/2024-25 Date: 16.01.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 72,81,314/- / Rs. 1,45,700/-	28.01.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	29.01.2025 after 4:30 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1).
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
3	Kaveri - (O&M) - 2	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2734/ 2024-25 Date: 10.01.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 72.64 Lakhs / Rs. 1,46,000/-	03.02.2025 upto 04:00 p.m.	04.02.2025 after 05:00 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer(Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance)-2.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
4	Quality Assurance	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1253/2024-25 Date: 16.01.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 68,96,000/- / Rs. 1,37,920/-	27.01.2025 upto 5:30 p.m.	29.01.2025 at 12:00 Noon
5		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1255/2024-25 Date: 16.01.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 68,96,000/- / Rs. 1,37,920/-		
					Sd/- Executive Engineer(Quality Assurance).
6	DE & PS	BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/1031/ 2024-25 Date: 13.01.2025	Rs. 78,57,619/- / Rs. 1,57,152/-	04.02.2025 upto 11:00 a.m.	05.02.2025 after 11:15 a.m.
7		BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/1032/ 2024-25 Date: 13.01.2025	Rs. 32,09,689/- / Rs. 64,200/-		
					Sd/- Executive Engineer(DE & PS).
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
8	South -1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/3380/ 2024-25 Date: 16.01.2025(2nd Call)	Rs. 17,62,844 /- / Rs. 44,100/-	27.01.2025 upto 04:00 p.m.	29.01.2025 after 04:00 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer(South -1).
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
9	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/ PB/3014/ 2024-25 Date: 18.01.2025	Rs. 19,50,764 /- / Rs. 39,050/-	28.01.2025 upto 05:00 p.m.	29.01.2025 after 05:30 p.m.
					Sd/- Executive Engineer(Central).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/4423/2024-25

BJP leader's remarks on CM rakes up controversy

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

BJP leader Nazia Khan's remarks, at a programme organised in Belagavi by a Hindutva outfit, accusing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of misbehaving with women have raked up a controversy.

Addressing the 'Batenge to katenge, Ek hai to safe hai' convention organised at Sulebhavi village in Belagavi taluk on Sunday, Ms. Nazia Khan raised questions over what she termed as misbehaviour of Mr. Siddaramaiah with women activists and leaders.

She also alleged that the Chief Minister had tried to misbehave with women journalists. She said she has a list of women with whom the Chief Minister had allegedly misbehaved.

A video clip of her remarks later went viral.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Shivakumar in firefighting mode

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is in a firefighting mode on most days as the "four-men army" of Ministers, said to be loyal to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, is seeking appointment of a full-time Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president, a post that the former now holds.

After the initial buzz related to developing Brand Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar appears to be now more busy with tackling internal fights of the party. So far, it appears that he has successfully stopped the holding of a "dinner meeting" of Dalit Ministers, and postponed the placing of the caste census report in the State Cabinet meeting. Till now, the party high command seems to have rewarded him for his loyalty.

Will the MP keep time?

Six months after becoming a member of Parliament, Capt. Brijesh Chowta (*in picture*) admitted that he is yet to come to terms with the demands of present-day politics. The admission came when he was delayed by nearly an hour to the National Youth Day programme at the

Ramakrishna Mutt on January 16. Apologising for the delay, Capt. Chowta, who worked in the Indian Army's Gorkha Regiment, said, "The least I can do as an MP is to come on time. I am still unable to do it. I am yet to come to terms with it."

The first-time MP said he was trying to prioritise and manage time. "I hope to sort things out soon," he said and assured the audience that he would turn up on time for programmes in the coming days.

Discontent spills over

The simmering discontent among Congress leaders came to the forefront during a party meeting in Belagavi last week in the presence of AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala.

At a meeting in which he participated, some party workers raised the issue of who should get credit for the construction of the Congress Bhavan in Belagavi. Party worker Babulal Bagwan said Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi (*in picture*) had not only contributed towards the construction of the bhavan but also continued to fund its maintenance. Mr. Bagwan was responding to reports that KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar had given full credit for the bhavan's construction to Minister

Laxmi Hebbalkar at the CLP meeting. Mr. Jarkiholi apparently took exception to the KPCC chief's remark and said his brother Ramesh Jarkiholi, former Minister, too had contributed to the building, before the latter switched over to the BJP. Mr. Bagwan also raised a question as to why several Congress MLAs had not attended the meeting. District party president Vinay Navalagatti and other leaders tried to pacify the agitated workers. However, Mr. Surjewala and Mr. Satish Jarkiholi remained quiet through the furore.

Nagesh Prabhu
Raghava M.
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai

CACHE

The impact of H-1B visas on the tech industry in U.S.

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, both immigrants and Mr. Trump's picks to overhaul the U.S. government, are supportive of the skilled foreign worker visa programme

John Xavier

The last week of 2024 didn't exude the holiday spirit for several folks in the tech world. A section of billionaires, politicians, and tech workers were piqued by a specific U.S. immigration policy that allows skilled foreign workers to work in the country.

A verbal mudslinging began after President-elect Donald Trump appointed Sriram Krishnan as his senior policy advisor on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Within days after the announcement, Laura Loomer, a prominent MAGA supporter, wrote rancorous social media posts against the decision, calling Indian immigrants "third world invaders." The right-wing influencer then doxxed Mr. Krishnan, sharing his domicile details scoured from the U.S. Federal Election Commission (FEC). While Ms. Loomer apologised for doxxing Mr. Krishnan, she remains rooted in the idea that the number of skilled foreign workers must be reduced in the U.S. as the programme is negatively impacting native workers.

Mr. Krishnan, an Indian immigrant who came through the ranks of top tech firms in the Silicon Valley, supports simplifying the legal process for tech workers to enter the U.S. His stance has been echoed by several tech billionaires. His to-be-peer in the Trump administration, former PayPal executive David Sacks, came in support of the a16z's general partner and clarified that Mr. Krishnan did not advocate for the removal of restrictions for a green card but was only seeking the removal of country-specific caps.

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, both immigrants and Mr. Trump's picks to overhaul the U.S. government, are supportive of the skilled foreign worker visa programme. The world's richest man even said he would "go to war" to defend the programme. In an X post, he wrote: "The reason I'm in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla, and hundreds of other companies that made America strong is because of H1B." The H1-B issue has not just split MAGA supporters; it has also turned some prominent Democrats, who were pro-immigration during the election season, into H-1B programme bashers. For instance, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said the main function of the H1-B visa "is not to hire 'the best and the brightest' but rather to replace good-paying American jobs with low-wage indentured servants from abroad."

Heated debates on the H-1B visa programme are not a new phenomenon. It helps to know the programme's brief history – at least from the time it went through a major revision in the 90s – and its net impact on wages and productivity in the U.S.

ISTOCKPHOTO

A brief history

In the early 90s, the U.S. enacted the Immigration Act of 1990 to increase the number and diversity of immigrants coming into the country and to adapt to the changing economic and social needs of a globalising world. The legislation significantly revised and expanded the H-1B visa programme.

Apart from mandating employers to file an application with the labour department that hiring H-1B workers will not adversely affect wages and working conditions of U.S. workers, the law established an annual cap of 65,000 new H-1B visas for each fiscal year.

These changes led to a substantial increase in the number of H-1B visas issued and made the programme more accessible to U.S. employers seeking high-skilled foreign workers. This, in turn, contributed to the programme's role in attracting skilled workers at a time when American companies were facing intensifying global competition, especially from Japan in high-tech and manufacturing sectors.

Silicon Valley was emerging as a global tech hub, creating unprecedented demand for scientists, technology professionals, engineers, and mathematicians (STEM workers). Traditional industries in other parts of the country were also undergoing rapid computerisation, requiring STEM talent that wasn't readily available in the domestic workforce.

The cap on H-1B visas were hiked to 1,95,000 during the dot-com boom before returning to the base cap. Then, in 2004, an additional 20,000 slots were added for advanced degree holders from U.S. universities. Since 1990 to 2019, roughly 4.5 million H-1B visas were issued, and in the fiscal year of 2023, 72% of approved H-1B petitions were for beneficiaries born in India, and 65% of all approved H-1B petitions were for workers in computer-related occupations.

The impact of H-1B workers

A 2013 study, titled 'STEM Workers, H-1B Visas, and Productivity in U.S. Cities' by economist Giovanni Peri, found that H-1B workers had a positive impact on the wages of native college-educated workers and overall productivity in U.S. cities.

The study examined the influx of foreign STEM workers through the H-1B visa programme and their impact in 219 cities between 1990 to 2010. It noted that H-1B-driven increases in STEM workers boosted wages for native college-educated workers. A one percentage point increase in the foreign STEM share of a city's employment led to an increase of around 7-8 percentage points in the wages of native college-educated workers.

Also, wages of non-college-educated native workers saw a positive, though smaller, increase. These workers experienced a 3-4 percentage point increase in wages for every one percentage point increase in the foreign STEM share of employment. The study estimates that the growth in foreign STEM workers may account for 30% to 50% of aggregate productivity growth in the U.S. between 1990 and 2010. Fast forward to 2024, and the impact of foreign workers on U.S. wages and productivity continued to be positive.

In a follow-up study, titled 'Immigration's Effect on US Wages and Employment Redux,' economists Alessandro Caiumi and Giovanni Peri note that immigrants and native workers complement each other in the labour market. In their research that examines the broader impact of immigration on the U.S. labour market between 2000 and 2022, they found that immigrants often specialise in different and complementary occupations compared to native workers.

In a separate study that documents the impact of H-1B workers on innovation and product commercialisation, Harvard Business School Professor William Kerr notes that skilled immigrants have contributed significantly to U.S. patent activity, particularly in emerging technologies. Jennifer Hunt, Professor of Economics at Rutgers University, has shown in her research that H-1B workers who transition to permanent residency tend to be particularly innovative and entrepreneurial, often founding companies that create jobs for U.S. workers.

Talent conundrum in the age of AI

Despite the positive impact of H-1B workers on the U.S. economy, opponents of the visa programme are clamouring for restrictions and lowering the number of legal immigrants. Some criticisms, particularly the ones against Indian tech services companies like Infosys and Cognizant, are well-laid.

These companies developed a business model that combined offshore development centres in India with on-site presence in the U.S., facilitated by H-1B visas. This model, sometimes called the "global delivery model," transformed how technology services were delivered to U.S. companies, but it did not truly make a path-breaking innovation for the U.S. economy.

These companies typically rank among the top H-1B sponsors annually. For instance, in many years between 2005-2019, Indian companies accounted for a substantial portion of all H-1B visa petitions. This has raised concerns about the programme's concentration among top IT services firms.

It will do well for the incoming Trump administration to look into these practices and redraft a skilled worker immigration policy that prioritises the skill and educational background of an individual over a company's profit-making interests.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

She isn't pulling her weight in the team

Everyone was supposed to have their hair in two plaits. Please start braiding your hair now

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'pull one's weight'? (K. Natarajan)

The idiom 'pull one's weight' is mostly used in informal contexts to mean to do one's share of work; you cooperate with the other members of your team to complete a job. You achieve this by working as hard as them; your contribution towards an enterprise is the same as the others.

Your manager tells me that you haven't been pulling your weight. What seems to be the problem?

He accused several members on the team of not pulling their weight.

'Pull one's weight' is an idiom which has been around since the 19th century. According to scholars, it originated in the sport of rowing. In this sport, several people sit in a boat and attempt to row it as quickly as possible. In order to achieve this, teamwork is essential. The participants need to ensure they are all in synch while rowing, and also, that every individual puts in the same effort as the others. Each individual 'pulls his weight' by applying all his strength to each stroke. If a member fails to do so, he becomes a burden on the team. Nowadays, the idiom is mostly used while discussing the value of an employee.

How is the word 'plait' pronounced? (R. Sangeetha, Nellore)

How this word is pronounced depends on which side of the Atlantic the individual is from. An American would pronounce it like the word 'plate'. An Englishman, on the other hand, would rhyme the word with 'flat'. 'Plait' comes from the Old French 'pleir' meaning 'to fold'. As children, most girls in our country, get their hair plaited by their mother. What is it that mothers do? They take two or three strands of hair and cross them over each other and create a pattern of some sort. This process is called plaiting. Any string like material can be plaited.

The three-year old had fun plaiting her grandfather's beard.

Americans prefer to use the word 'braid' – rhymes with 'trade' and 'grade' – rather than 'plait'. They talk about 'braiding one's hair', rather than 'plaiting one's hair'!

The mother spent a lot of time teaching her daughters how to braid their hair.

What is the meaning of the expression 'to nix something'? (J. Hamsa, Mysore)

The word 'nix' rhymes with 'kicks', 'fix' and 'ticks'. When you 'nix' someone's plan, what you are doing is to prevent it from happening. You put an end to it by saying 'no' to it. This informal expression can also be used to mean 'refuse to accept' or 'veto' something.

I asked for a raise, but my boss nixed it.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Late American filmmaker David Lynch was born on January 20, 1946. Here is a quiz on the acclaimed director and his works

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
Lynch made his first experimental short film while he was a student at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. The short film is a continuously looping animation of human figures. Name the film.

QUESTION 2
After watching Lynch's first feature film *Eraserhead*, the creator of this very popular space opera wanted the former to direct the third movie of the franchise. Lynch is said to have turned down the offer. Name the franchise and the movie.

QUESTION 3
Lynch appeared in an award winning film directed by Steven Spielberg. Identify the movie and name the character Lynch played.

QUESTION 4
Lynch was awarded an honorary Academy Award in 2019. How many times has he been nominated for an Oscar and which film earned him his first Oscar nomination?

QUESTION 5
Name the writer who co-created an iconic surrealist mystery-horror drama television series along with Lynch.

Visual question:
Identify this actor who is a long time collaborator with Lynch. He played the lead Henry Spencer in *Eraserhead*

Questions and Answers to the January 17 edition of the daily quiz: 1. Name the three Bronte sisters. **Ans: Anne, Emily and Charlotte Brontë**
2. The second novel of Anne Bronte. **Ans: *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall***
3. The three of them have worked on a collection of poems, 21 from Anne and 21 from Emily and 19 from Charlotte in this book. **Ans: *Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell***
4. Along with Anne's *Agnes Grey*, name the two well-known novels of the other two sisters. **Ans: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily**
5. This sister publicly revealed the real identities of all three sisters. **Ans: Charlotte**
Visual: Identify this place. **Ans: Brontë Parsonage Museum**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| K.N. Viswanathan| Tito Shiladitya| Piyali Tuli| Dodo Jayaditya

Word of the day

Widget:
something unspecified whose name is either forgotten or not known; a device or control that is very useful for a particular job

Synonyms: appliance, contraption, convenience, gadget

Usage: *These widgets are now more technologically advanced.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/widgetpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈwɪʤ.ɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Whitefield walk: Between a colonial past and a post-liberalisation future

Vestiges of the old Whitefield have managed to cling to the few historical buildings still in use thanks to its long-term residents' constant attempts to preserve it

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Most people new to the city associate Whitefield with the IT hub, upscale malls, vehicular congestion and never-ending water woes.

The stolid-looking, grey-bearded gentleman has a piercing gaze, one that seems to follow us as we file past his photograph hung on the thick walls of the Whitefield Club. "That is a picture of Mr. White," says Deepa Peck, a long-time resident of Whitefield who is leading us on a heritage walk around the neighbourhood.

Most people new to the city associate Whitefield with the IT hub, upscale malls, vehicular congestion and never-ending water woes. But the suburb also has a long history dating back to 1882, as Deepa, who developed a keen interest in the locality's heritage since her husband's family, the Pecks, was among the earliest inhabitants of Whitefield, constantly reiterates. According to her, the man in the photograph, David Emmanuel Starkenburgh White, after whom the area is named, founded Whitefield then on land granted to the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association by Chamrajendra Wadiyar X, the Maharaja of Mysore.

Farming never took off

Back then, Whitefield was envisioned as an agricultural settlement, with the early Whitefielders referred to as the settlers, explains Deepa. Whitefield was built in two concentric circles: the Inner Circle, consisting of wedge-shaped residential plots, at the centre of which was the Village Green, from which four radial roads lead to the Outer Circle, comprising larger tracts of land with residences, she further explains.

The suburb of Whitefield has a long history dating back to 1882. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"To the east was the sole governing body that Main Road with residences on either side," says Deepa, adding that the initial idea of a self-sufficient farming settlement never really took off, partly because of water scarcity. "Water problems are nothing new here. It has been a problem since 1882," she remarks wryly. Also, "most of the settlers had little or no agricultural background."

At that time, the Whitefield Settlers Association, headed by Mr. White, was looked after the affairs of Whitefield - long before it came under the Panchayat, and today, the BBMP. "However, with the advent of apartments and gated communities, each having their own RWA, the Settlers' Association didn't have much relevance," states Deepa, who currently holds the office. In fact, at the last AGM, it was decided that the Whitefield Settlers' Association would amalgamate with Whitefield Rising, a citizen's movement in the area, since "it seemed better to be under the aegis of a larger, unifying umbrella."

The idea for this walk goes back to a project done as part of Gully Tours City Explorer, the walking tour company's annual flagship programme, which seeks to create more ambassadors for the city. "As part of the programme, participants were divided into groups and asked to design a walk on any given topic," says Dr. Gayathri Talapula, who is also part of the walk. "Our group chose Whitefield because some of us live here, and we've always been intrigued by its past."

Research into past

As part of their research, the group explored the older areas of Whitefield, like the inner and outer circles, visiting some of the old houses and speaking to the people living there to get "all possible information about the past of Whitefield," says Gayathri, who, with her group, designed the heritage walk. During their research, they met Peck, who is deeply interested in the legacy of Whitefield and takes people on these small walks. Gayathri wishes to launch the Whitefield walk officially later this year.

Some of the other stops we make include the small but lovely Memorial Church, consecrated in 1886; the quaint Perfect Peace, one of the first few bungalows to be built in the area, today owned by inventor Paul D'Souza and his mother; the larger Our Lady of Lourdes Church behind which is a stately

hillock meant to represent Calvary; the run-down remains of Meer Saheb's General Store and Waverly Inn, neglected and overrun with dense undergrowth.

Talapula admits to being rather intrigued by the "spicy" legend linked to this inn: it is believed that Winston Churchill, who lived in Bengaluru back then, often visited the inn to court Rose Hamilton, the daughter of the innkeeper James Hamilton. "Of course, there's no evidence of it, but I think everybody wants to believe that story," she says. "It is a pretty interesting link between the Prime Minister of the U.K. and Whitefield."

Past and future

Vestiges of the old Whitefield have managed to cling to the few historical buildings still in use here thanks to its long-term residents' constant attempts to preserve it. For instance, the Whitefield Club, founded in 1905, was renovated in 2006, with great trouble being taken to maintain the look of the façade to match that of the original building.

Then, in 2005, residents rallied to preserve the historic Whitefield Memorial Church from being damaged due to road widening plans. "The authorities don't seem to care about our history," she says. But this is a rich heritage. How can you destroy it?"

The constant tussle between Whitefield's old identity as an Anglo-Indian settlement and what it is today, an IT hub filled with people for whom this is a layover stop and not a destination, clearly saddens its long-time residents, Peck included. "While words such as 'progress' and 'development' usually have a positive nuance, residents feel that 'development' in Whitefield seems quite the opposite," she says. "

Instead, roads are being widened haphazardly while the water issue has become more significant than ever before as the supply cannot keep up with the demand for this basic resource. Large gated colonies and commercial establishments, many even illegal, have mushroomed and continue to sprout across the neighbourhood, taking over what was once a quiet, residential area. A few residents are actively involved in trying to improve issues facing Whitefield, but many don't want to get involved. "They come here for employment and will, probably, then return to where they came from," says Deepa. "Very few of the original families are left here now."

Victim of its own success

However, when the International Tech Park (ITPL) came up here in the late 90s, Whitefield residents actually welcomed it, remembers Deepa. "Till then, others would talk about how we lived in the boondocks! But things did improve with the advent of ITPL and other companies in and around Whitefield," she remembers. "It generated employment, not just for techies but also for locals, so it was welcomed."

Whitefield, like the city of Bengaluru itself, appears to have become a victim of its own success. "The resources and infrastructure are woefully inadequate to cater to the burgeoning population and the feverish ongoing construction happening all around," explains Deepa. Take, for instance, the constant water shortage in the locality. "While drilling borewells is technically banned, new ones are being drilled every few days," she says. "We inform officials, but the drilling continues.'

Slew of illegalities

But she and other long-term residents who care about the place continue to fight the good fight in their own way. "We are rallying to preserve the character of the Inner and Outer Circle areas, which have been classified as Residential Main areas as per BBMP's Zoning, and no commercial establishments are permitted here," she says. "But it is a constant, uphill battle with officials themselves turning a blind eye to such illegalities."

It is why she believes that walks like this, which expose people to the hidden heritage of the neighbourhood where they work, live in or traverse through, are very important. "When you have these walks and talk about the history and heritage of the area, some awareness does set in - and they realise that Whitefield is so much more than just a place where one stays for a while in a 2-bedroom apartment!"

Infant undergoes successful surgery for rare radial artery aneurysm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A nine-month-old Raghav K. (name changed) has successfully undergone surgery in a private hospital in the city for a radial artery aneurysm, a vascular ailment rarely seen in children.

When Raghav was six months old, his parents spotted a pulsating bulge on his right wrist, which marked the beginning of his medical journey. They sought advice from several physicians in Davangere, their hometown. His illness required surgery, but because of the risks, the local doctors were reluctant to operate on such a young infant.

What is aneurysm?

The parents were then referred to Rajendra Prasad, Senior Consultant - Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Manipal Hospital Yeshwantpur. When Raghav first arrived at hospital, he was thoroughly examined through Doppler tests and CT and MR angiograms. The findings verified that he had an aneurysm in the radial artery (one of the major blood vessels supplying the wrist, forearm, and hand).

"Aneurysm is a condition in which the artery swells abnormally but is not ruptured. It is very rarely seen in children. If left untreated the condition carries risk of rupture an dthromboembolism. Particularly for the aneurysms in upper limbs (as seen in Raghav's case) a prompt surgical removal and correction of the blood vessel remains the mainstay of the treatment," explained Dr Prasad. Because of the rare condition, the doctor convinced Raghav's parents that a surgery was necessary to prevent further complications and to restore the baby's health.

The infant underwent surgery on December 2, 2024, for the removal of the aneurysm. Dr. Prasad and his team performed the procedure under magnification loupes, ensuring no harm was done to the surrounding tissues and arteries. Both the arteries feeding the aneurysm were meticulously controlled before excising the aneurysm. The infant is now doing well, with no complications in his hand.

An architecture of thinking

Yet even those who do not know what to do can write an essay on the not knowing

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Virginia Woolf. AP

You can't do a painting on a painting or a novel on a novel, but you can write an essay on an essay. With that thought in mind, I sat down to it, and soon Donald Barthelme's line popped into my head: "The writer is that person who, embarking upon his task, does not know what to do."

Yet even those who do not know what to do can write an essay on the not knowing. Such is the elasticity of the form, at once rooted and slippery. Brian Dillon, who has written a book on the subject, *Essayism* identifies in the form a "combination of exactitude and evasion" whose strength sometimes lies in incompleteness. The essay's elusiveness then is at the opposite end of the scale from the precision and form of poetry. The anti-essay is an essay too.

The moment you define an essay, you put it into a straitjacket and away from other equally valid definitions. Whatever you say about the essay is true, and so is its opposite.

At some stage in writing about the essay, it is necessary to make references to Montaigne and Bacon, Orwell and Woolf, and from closer to our times Didion and Solnit. OK, so that's done. It is also necessary to insist that the essay does not submit to a ready definition. So there you are.

Essays can be short or long (a *New York Times* column once had just one word - does that count as an essay?); the only consideration is that they give pleasure or provoke a reaction. You can argue, justify, educate, gossip, criticise, explain, advise, satirise, or inspire. But if you must bore, then it must be in a higher cause, like making a point about excitement by focusing on its opposite.

The essay, no matter what the subject, is a self-portrait. It bares the soul of the writer unlike any other form barring poetry. The essay is not so much about the reader as about the writer. I feel, I hear, I think, I suppose, I believe rather than what you should or how you should do these things. Poetry has its rules, the essay is free; the mind is at play and you can either stand aside and watch or join in.

You find a voice, or the voice finds you. You need to find a persona that is very much like you but slightly caricatured, said the essayist Anne Fadiman in her usual understated humorous way - see how we understand Fadiman better after reading that. The idea of the caricature is insightful. It is a guard against self-indulgence.

Like a painter, an essayist slices a bit of his imagination and places it on the page (or screen) for public consumption. Or as private catharsis. Information or opinion is incidental.

To write an essay is to erect an architecture of thinking, to build a place where a certain thought is possible. I don't know who said that, but it seems a broad enough church to harbour most essays.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1975

Water Sources Not Fully Tapped, says Governor

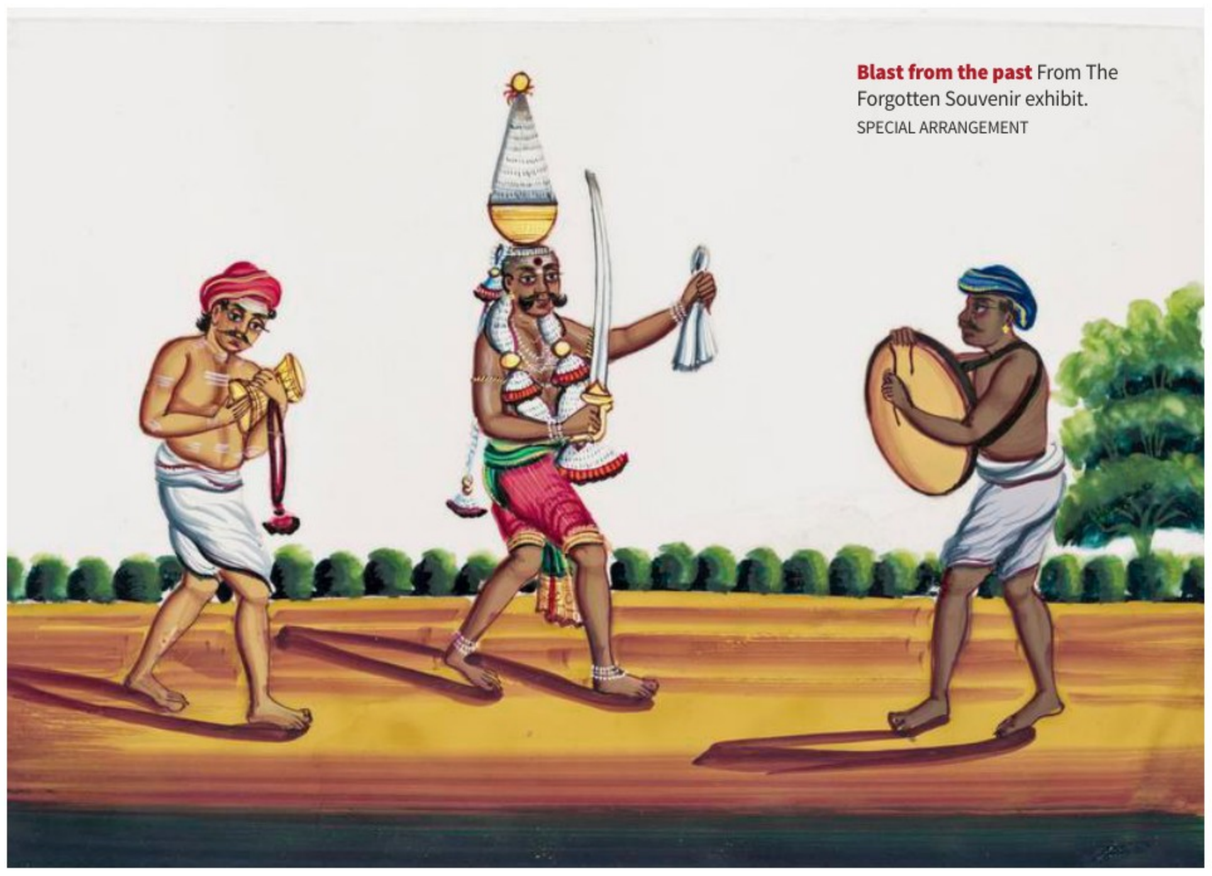
Bangalore, Jan. 19: The Governor, Mohanlal Sukhadia, today said there was vast scope in the State for sinking irrigation wells and starting cooperative lift irrigation schemes.

Inaugurating the land development week and the two-day conference of presidents and secretaries of the primary Land Development Banks in the State, the Governor said there were many areas where underground water and river waters were not sufficiently exploited yet. This matter required careful examination.

He suggested the starting of cooperative lift irrigation schemes in some parts of the State so as to raise a second crop of pulses. He was confident that the State Land Development Bank would be able to fulfil its ambitious target of advancing loans of the order of Rs. 140 crores during the Fifth Plan period. It was important to see that the loans were productive.

Kudremukh Talks in Final Stage

Calcutta, Jan. 19: Discussion for setting up the country's biggest iron ore mining project at Kudremukh in Karnataka with the Iranian authorities were "almost in the final stage" the Union Minister of State for Steel and Mines, Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, said here yesterday.
According to the proposal being negotiated with Iran, processed iron ore in liquid slurry form is to be supplied to that country after the completion of the project in about four years' time.



Blast from the past From The Forgotten Souvenir exhibit.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Miniatures on mica

The Forgotten Souvenir, an exhibition of mica paintings, is currently on display at the Museum of Art and Photography

Ruth Dhanaraj

It is highly possible the last time one heard the word "mica" was in school and in connection to a no-longer-remembered chapter on the earth's minerals. The Forgotten Souvenir, an exhibition that is currently underway at the Museum of Art and Photography, will not only stir up memories of geography lessons, but also an important one in history, too.

According to Khushi Bansal who curated Forgotten Souvenirs, mica paintings rarely get an exclusive viewing and are usually a part of larger exhibitions displaying Company School Paintings (works of art created during the British era). However, mica paintings came into their own during a specific period of time in India – when royal patronage of traditional art was on the decline and photography was becoming popular.

"This was a period when the British had come to India, the courts were no longer able to support artists and their workshops, and so they started adapting to changing demands and clientele," says Khushi, adding that the new patrons were military personnel and merchants visiting India; they neither had the time nor the resources to commission large scale works.

"There is a depletion in the level of detail as well as a change in the themes found in art works at the time," she says, with regard to art works executed during that period. "Usage of the term 'Company School' minimises a lot of other developments in the art scene at that time."

Khushi explains, "Mica became an interesting medium because it imitated European glass paintings, and compared to glass, they were relatively easy to transport back to England."

It is interesting to see how a factor such as the tourist demand for collectibles heralded a change in creative expression. Mica is found in specific parts of the country – Murshidabad, Patna and Tiruchi – and these regions developed specific styles of work with this medium.

The Forgotten Souvenir

This stylistic shift is quite apparent during a walk through The Forgotten Souvenir exhibit. There are the three types of mica paintings – the faceless images, sets of trades and occupations, and deities. Also on display are samples of mica and it is amazing to see how such a fragile material was used as an art medium more than a century ago. What is even more surprising is how the works have survived the passage of time.

"The artists realised mica couldn't absorb pigment so they added gouache to stabilise the watercolour, which resulted in vibrant multi-coloured paintings," says Khushi, who adds that was a digression from the British aesthetics of the time.

The makers of these glass paintings pushed at the boundaries of design and they were used in lanterns, an example of which hangs at The Forgotten Souvenir. Innovative ideas such as crafting two sets of paintings – one of a background on paper and the other on mica to be placed over it – would create a multi-dimensional effect.

At the exhibition is an example of a large mica work, a rarity as artists soon realised bigger works were not a profitable option. Executed by an artist named Sewak Ram of the Patna School, it depicts the Ramlila festival in Ayodhya. Sewak Ram was one of the pioneers in popularising "firkas" of standard sets of paintings.

Though these sets were created as depictions of daily life, their increasing popularity and demand, highlights the way India was viewed by the British – reduced to caste, class and community.

> Mica became an interesting medium because it imitated European glass paintings, and were relatively easy to transport back to England
>
> **KHUSHI BANSAL**
> Curator, The Forgotten Souvenir

"This is a way the British documented India's trades and professions and is one of the earliest examples of an ethnographic study. That is also why it is believed that the British created a class and caste system that was even more divisive than the one they came into," says Khushi.

In South India, mica was mined in Cuddapah and deities were the hallmark of mica paintings from Tiruchi.

At the show

Running on a loop at the exhibition is a short film by Amit Datta, titled *Moments Before Mutiny*. Using images from the collection Amit and the team put together a story about uneasy pace of life preceding the Revolt of 1857. The haunting score and the voice over add to the atmosphere of suspense.

"We have also developed an AR game alongside the exhibition, which gives visitors an in-depth look at the exhibition as they make decisions and choices, that reflect on their final outcome," says Khushi.

A booklet that is a part of the exhibition contains the artistic, historical and academic facets of the exhibition as well as a commissioned essay by artist Rahee Punyashloka, who talks about mica in the contemporary context.

Mica paintings are specific to those 80 to 100 years in Indian history as it is no longer pursued today, and the exhibition is an interesting way of gaining insight into a society the once existed and the far reaching impact of colonialism as well.

The Forgotten Souvenir will be on display at the Museum of Art and Photography till February 23, 2025

CITYBEATS

We shall overcome

JANUARY 25 AND 26
There will be a free two-day masterclass for people with a stammering impediment. The workshop is organised by the Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bengaluru.
Participants will receive personalised training on fluency-shaping strategies by Dr Venkatgiri, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University. Along with him, a team of expert speech pathologists from the Samvaad Institute will also be present to provide support.
For details, registrations and further information, call 7795100446 or mail samvaadinstitute@yahoo.co.in

A regal touch

ONGOING
Lucknowee offers a range of kebabs, rolls and biryanis, as a celebration of Nawabi indulgence. The menu inlcudes *ultey tawe ka paratha, peeli mirchi ki chutney,* butter chicken tikka roll, mutton galauti roll, chakori murg and more. There are also vegetarian options such as the aachari paneer tikka roll, filled with marinated paneer. The speciality is that the dishes are a combination of flavours that encapsulate the royal culinary heritage of Lucknow.
Lucknowee is available for delivery via Zomato and Swiggy across select locations.

The dancing queens

Meet the Bengaluru based tiktokers, The Vixens Crew, an all-girl dance troupe that has taken over the internet and the stage by storm with their sleek moves

Making dreams a reality
Members of The Vixens Crew.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

If you are the scroll-videos on your screen type of a person, there is a 100% chance that a short reel by The Vixens Crew would have popped up on your screen. The all-girl seven member group, dancing either to desi hits such as 'Sakkatagavle', 'Dwapara', 'Police Mama' or to Western music like 'Rockstar' and 'Swervin' would have surely caught your eye. Whether it is a semi-classical dance style or pure hip-hop, the girls move in perfect synchronisation and ace every move.

Formed on January 15, 2023, The Vixens Crew features dancers Medha Naidu, Anushka Anand, Megha J, Bhavana V, Renee Ripal Kadakia, Ketaki Vaze and Vibha Vinod Shekhar. They started off as a college dance band called Onslaught and went viral with their dance reel 'People' by Libianca which gradually led them to seek a career as professional dancers.

Medha, one of the dancers also trained in Kathak, talks from Mumbai, amidst her dance rehearsals before a show. "We were all a part of a college dance group called Onslaught which was a Western dance group in our college (MCC, Bengaluru). When we graduated, we were still getting invited to perform outside of college. As we could not perform as Onslaught, we created The Vixens Crew. The group was supposed to be on for just a few performances and we started posting our dance reels on our virtual platforms just for fun. Nothing was serious, but we started getting more views, likes and the same craze spilled over to stage shows too." Medha also shares that their tiktok dance reel 'People' by Libianca was shot in the "basketball court of our college!"

The Vixens Crew started off as a college dance band and went viral with their dance reel 'People' by Libianca which led them to seek a career as professional dancers

She then explains why they chose the name 'Vixens', "it means a female fox and represents fierce and powerful, which also reflects us as dancers and hence we felt the name was apt for us."

It is mostly team work and Medha says that technology too, played a "key role in the making of The Vixens Crew. Tiktok caught on during the lockdown and it was a short format content that caught on; we started experimenting with dance forms and choreographies in this format."

Yet, Medha says, "even if we are creating a short reel, the work process is equally intense as it includes rehearsals, shootings, camera, choreography and editing, which is quite demanding. We also make sure to practise together for at least for two hours every day."

Bhavna, another dancer with the crew, says "We have been together for almost five years, since our college days, and have attended workshops, danced, disagreed, agreed and travelled together for shows. One thing I love about Vixens is the versatility as each of us has our style as a dancer and yet we come together as one dance team, which is what makes Vixens unique."

Renee, another member adds: "The journey has been magical. We have come a long way and I have enjoyed every bit of it – each of us has grown as a dancer. Our bond today goes beyond dancing. Nothing can match this experience and bond."

Their journey from campus dancers to content creators to international spotlight, says Medha "has been overwhelming. We started getting support from brands. Initially, we had no clue how to react to the fan craze and wondered what we should do. But, when elderly women approach us and say they watched our reels with their college-going daughters, it means so much to us. Since all of us love to dance, becoming professional dancers seemed an organic path for us. Dance is our passion and dream. Each of us takes turns choreographing a dance piece and we use our base training in a dance form, classical or Western that we have learnt, to create our work."

The crew which performed at the YouTube Fan Fest 2024, RedBull Dance Your Style World Finals 2024, Absolute Pride Event 2024 and RCB Unbox Event 2024, say: "this is like a dream come true for us".

‘₹3 lakh cr. help given to A.P. in six months’

Amit Shah promises full Central support for the Polavaram project; Naidu seeks more hand-holding from Union govt. for State’s development

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Under watch: Amit Shah with CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM K. Pawan Kalyan on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Union government had extended financial support of nearly ₹3-lakh crore to Andhra Pradesh since June 2024, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday, while praising Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for taking the State forward “at a great speed” with his experience.

Thanking the people of Andhra Pradesh for giving a stunning victory to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2024 election, Mr. Shah called the five-year rule of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) a “man-made disaster”.

Participating as chief guest at the National Disaster Response Force’s (NDRF) 20th Raising Day event after inaugurating the southern campus of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), along with the NDRF’s 20th Battalion premises at Kondapavuluru in Krishna district, Mr. Shah said, “The NDRF comes to one’s mind during natural disasters while the NDA emerges as a saviour when there are man-made disasters such as the one in A.P. brought by the YSRCP.”

He said Andhra Pradesh’s potential was destroyed by the YSRCP and people could now feel assured of rapid development under the NDA rule. By sanctioning a financial package of ₹11,440 crore for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not only ensured that the historic steel plant survived the crisis but also respected the sentiment associated with it.

Mr. Shah said in tune with the importance given to the development of Amaravati, the Centre had provided financial support of ₹27,000 crore from the World Bank and HUDCO. He said the Centre would fully support the Polavaram project and that Mr. Naidu was confident of supplying water from the project to all parts of the State by the end of 2028.

In his speech, Mr. Naidu expressed gratitude to the Centre, Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah for extending support to A.P. in overcoming the crises faced by it after bifurcation, and sought more hand-holding to enable it to catch up with other progressive States. He also requested Central support for linking the Godavari, Krishna and Penna rivers, saying that tapping these waters would give a major boost to development.

Showering encomiums on the Union Home Minister, Mr. Naidu said he was jealous of Mr. Shah’s “dedication to work”.

Indian grey wolf gives birth to eight pups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The sanctuary is home to many species, including wolves, leopards, peacocks, blackbucks, foxes, and porcupines. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A wolf gave birth to eight pups at the Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary in Koppal district recently.

Announcing the birth of the pups, Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday said that due to the enhanced safety measures implemented by the Karnataka Forest Department, the endangered Indian wolves are thriving freely at the Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary.

“The sanctuary hosts the Indian grey wolf species, and one of the wolves recently gave birth to eight pups. Typically, only 50% of the wolf pups survive, but forest officials have taken measures to ensure the safety of all the pups,” Mr. Khandre said.

Mr. Khandre said that the 332-hectare Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary is made up of scrub forests, hills and natural caves.

The sanctuary is home to many wildlife species, including wolves, leopards, peacocks, blackbucks, foxes, hares, and porcupines.

It can be recalled that at the 15th Wildlife Board meeting, this area was declared as Karnataka’s first Wolf Wildlife Sanctuary.

That apart, a decision to designate it as an eco-sensitive zone was taken at the subcommittee meeting chaired by the Minister on January 18.

“The Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary now has around 35-40 wolves including the new board pups. Measures have been taken to ensure their safety, and precautions are in place to prevent disturbances to the newborn pups from humans,” the Minister said.

He added that the sanctuary, located 15 kilometers from Gangavati town, is being planned as a tourist destination.

“Officials have been directed to study the feasibility of setting up a safari and submit a report,” he added.

Ranebennur residents harassed during loan recovery

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Residents of a few localities in Ranebennur of Haveri district have said that employees of microfinance companies are harassing them seeking repayment of loans taken by them. The residents have said that their women are being stalked by employees of these companies seeking repayment installments.

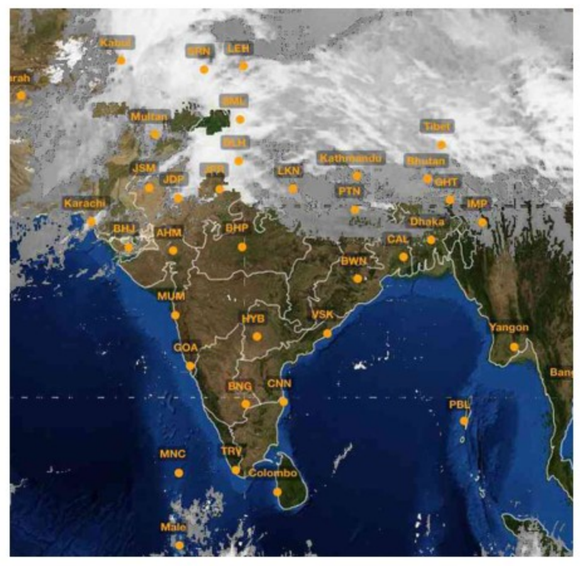
According to residents of Anjaneya Extension, Haralayya Nagar, Goulera Oni and a few other localities, those who have taken loans from microfinance companies are being tortured by the employees of such companies.

Some residents have videographed such harassment being meted out by the staff of microfinance companies. They have said that despite the Deputy Commissioner of Haveri giving the companies a direction not to harass loanees, the residents are being tortured through different methods.

They have said that those who have been unable to pay instalments in time are being disgraced in public by the staff of such companies.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense fog conditions very likely in isolated pockets of Uttarakhand, West Rajasthan, north Madhya Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura during night/morning hours. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.2	12.3	Kozhikode	—	32.6	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	32.4	17.5	Kurnool	—	32.8	18.8
Aizawl	—	25.9	10.5	Lucknow	—	22.4	8.8
Allahabad	—	22.8	9.0	Madurai	4.0	29.0	23.0
Bengaluru	3.3	27.4	18.2	Mangaluru	—	34.9	22.5
Bhopal	—	25.6	10.5	Mumbai	—	33.0	21.6
Bhubaneswar	—	29.2	13.8	Mysuru	—	29.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	25.2	8.0	New Delhi	—	25.8	9.4
Chennai	56	30.4	23.0	Patna	—	22.1	11.9
Coimbatore	—	29.3	21.6	Port Blair	—	30.5	25.1
Dehradun	—	23.6	10.5	Puducherry	—	26.2	22.9
Gangtok	—	15.8	6.9	Pune	—	30.1	12.8
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	—	30.0	14.3
Guwahati	—	27.0	12.7	Ranchi	—	25.6	10.2
Hubballi	—	32.0	18.0	Shillong	—	17.2	6.1
Hyderabad	—	30.5	15.3	Shimla	—	16.4	8.6
Imphal	—	24.7	7.9	Srinagar	—	9.7	-1.0
Jaipur	—	25.9	11.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	30.6	25.3
Kochi	â	30.0	24.6	Tiruchi	—	27.7	21.4
Kohima	—	19.4	9.9	Vijayawada	—	30.7	19.5
Kolkata	—	25.6	14.8	Visakhapatnam	—	29.6	20.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.35	..52	34	... 250	...172	
Bengaluru	.14	..30	47	... 123	99	
Chennai	.15	..20	25	 57	72	
Delhi	.20	..69	27	... 414	...355	
Hyderabad	...8	..24	96	... 169	.....—	
Kolkata	.16	107	..5	... 186	...151	
Lucknow	.11	..40	65	... 200	...167	
Mumbai	.25	..53	.—	... 244	.....—	
Pune	..—	223	70	... 151	...123	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..57	29	... 134	...119	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 395 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN:U85110KA1998SGC024503
Regd. Office: 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building,
No.1, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore – 560 001. Ph: 080-22283074-78
Fax: 080-222386015, Website: www.knnl.karnataka.gov.in
No. KNN(RO)/Appointment/CS/C & R/2024-25/5083 Date:16.01.2025

REQUIRED - COMPANY SECRETARY (ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT)

Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) is a Public Sector Undertaking implementing Major & Medium Irrigation Projects in the State of Karnataka invites application from eligible candidates for the post of Company Secretary (Grade-II) (By Direct Recruitment) at Regd. Office Bengaluru.

Interested candidates for more information may visit our website: **www.knnl.karnataka.gov.in** The last date for submitting the application **is 20.02.2025 before 5.30pm.**

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org
No. A3/BBP/e-Tender/Outsource/CR-1/2024-25 Date: 15-01-2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender for **“Outsourcing the Staff”** for a period of one year from the date of agreement.

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Proc **on or before 28-01-2025 upto 4.00 PM.** Technical bid will be Opened **on 30-01-2025 after 4.30 PM.** and Financial bid will be Opened **on 01-02-2025 after 11.30 AM.** EMD to be furnished: **Rs. 5 Lakhs**

Sd/-
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/4419/Adverto/2024-25

Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.R.E. DIVISION BIDAR
No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-2/2024-25/1836 Date: 17.01.2025

:: INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS ::

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 04 works approved under various schemes as per KW-01, 02, 03 & 04 in One Cover & Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum Rs. 7,61,375.30 (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Five and paise thirty only) & Maximum Rs. 147,92,905.90 (Rupees One Crore Forty Seven Lakhs Ninety two Thousand Nine Hundred five and paise ninety only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on 18.01.2025 to or before 16.00 hours up to 03.02.2025 Technical Bid will be opened on 04.02.2025 & Financial Bid will be opened on 10.02.2025 respectively. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Ensgineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/361/KSMC&A/2024-25

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Sri.BASAVARAJU.N, S/o. late. U.M. Naganna,** residing at No. 20/1, 2nd Cross, Near Government High School, Goragunte Palya, Bengaluru. Anybody, including Bangalore Development authority or any other authority, has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable bearing **site No. 143,** comprised within the layout formed and developed by Karnataka Government Secretariat House Building Co-Operative Society Limited, Bengaluru, out of Sy No.23/1, 24/8 to 24/11, 24/14,24/34, 27(part) of Mallathahalli Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and Sy No. 34/1, 34/3(P), 34/4, 34/5(p) and 34/7(p) of Srigandhadakaval village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore as Per modified layout plan approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, vide Resolution No.189/2011 dt: 08/09/2011 and work order No. vide its letter No. BDA/TPM/PRL/26/07-08/1444/2012-13, dt: 12/06/2012, site No. 143, comes under the survey numbers of Srigandhakaval Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Having E PID No. 6000070648 and measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft:

AND BOUNDED ON:
East by : Site No. 137 & 138.
West by : Road.
North by : Site No. 142.
South by : Site No. 144.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61.
Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi, Pin Code.585 102. E-mail:eeetpgescom@gmail.com
Website:gescom.in, CIN:U4010KA2002SGC030436
No: GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Tech)/EEE(Tech)/AEE-1(Tech)//AE-1(Tech)/2024-25/53973-87 Dt: 17-1-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited, Kalaburagi invites bids from the eligible bidders for **“Creation of infrastructures for the UAIP applicants who have paid Rs.10,000/- infrastructure charges and are existing within 500 Mtrs from the grid and pending for energization as on 22.09.2023 in rural areas of GESCOM under PTK Rate Contract Basis”** (Distribution Transformer will be supplied by GESCOM) for a period of 01 year, extendable by one more Year at the discretion of GESCOM for **Bidar O&M Division** (Bid Enq No:TP-087/UAIP/2024-25/Bidar Division and Approximate amount put to tender: **Rs. 1282.52 lakhs), Humnabad O&M Division** (Bid Enq No: TP-088/UAIP/2024-25/Humnabad Division and Approximate amount put to tender: **Rs. 217.28 lakhs)** and **Ballari Rural O&M Division** (Bid Enq No: TP-089/UAIP/2024-25/Ballari Rural Division and Approximate amount put to tender: **Rs. 124.32 lakhs).**

The interested bidders may log on to Government Web Site Address: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after Dated: **20.01.2025.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer Elecy., Operation, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/855/KSMC&A/2024-25

Pyrrhic peace

A united administration under the Palestinian Authority must be in place

After 15 months of war, which saw the deaths of tens of thousands of people, the destruction of much of Gaza and multiple rounds of painstaking negotiations, Hamas and Israel have agreed to a ceasefire. As soon as the news was out, thousands ventured out on the streets in Gaza, hoping that the daily bombardment and shelling would come to an end. Uncertainty still lingered, but both sides resolved their last-minute differences over details about Israel's partial withdrawal from Gaza and the names of the hostages to be released on day one and the ceasefire came into force on Sunday. This is not a permanent end to the war. But given the violence that Israel and Gaza have witnessed since October 7, 2023, even a pause in the war is a great relief, especially for Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians. The agreement is expected to be implemented in three phases. In the first phase, Hamas will release 33 hostages, while Israel will release about 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners. The second phase would see more exchanges of hostages and prisoners and both sides are required to announce a permanent end to the hostilities. The third phase will involve discussions on the 'day after', including who should be in charge of Gaza.

As of now, both sides stay focused on phase one. Trouble could arise when negotiations for the next phases begin. When Israel launched the war, it set two objectives for itself – the destruction of Hamas and the release of hostages. In 15 months of war, Israel has degraded Hamas's militant infrastructure, but the group has survived and reinvented itself as an insurgency. According to Antony Blinken, the outgoing U.S. Secretary of State, Hamas recruited as many fighters as it had lost during the war. Israel's inability to destroy Hamas or secure the release of the hostages through the offensive raises serious questions about the IDF's military tactics in Gaza. This could probably be one of the factors that persuaded Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the ceasefire. But he has not committed to bringing the war to an end. Hamas, on the other side, demands a complete withdrawal of Israel from Gaza. Despite the possible roadblocks, the fact that a ceasefire came into force is welcome news. It provides a desperately needed relief for Gaza and a platform to build further talks. Israel, Palestinians as well as the international mediators should now work towards bridging the gaps in the post-war scenario. Israel will not accept a situation that would leave Hamas as a ruling force in Gaza. A more pragmatic solution is to form a united administration of all Palestinian factions under the leadership of the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority, and then shift the focus towards the reconstruction of Gaza. But for this plan to work and peace to prevail, Israel should be ready to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

Murder most foul

Making India safe for all must be a priority for State authorities

The conviction on Saturday of a former civic police volunteer in the rape and murder of a second-year postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata has brought some closure to her parents, but the struggle to make systemic changes to make the workplace safe for women continues. The District and Sessions Court, Sealdah, found Sanjay Roy guilty of the horrific crime at the State-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9, 2024, while on duty. Pronouncing the verdict in the presence of the parents and the accused, Judge Anirban Das said the accused was found guilty based on evidence put forward by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The accused is being held guilty under Sections 64 (rape), 66 (causing death), and 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Reading out the verdict, the judge said the crime carries the highest punishment of a death sentence and the lowest of life imprisonment; the terms of the sentence will be announced today. In his observations, the judge also put the spotlight on the functioning of the hospital administration, saying that the actions of the college's principal and other senior members had "created some confusion" in his mind. In widespread protests after the crime, doctors, the parents, and civil society had alleged that it could not have been the handiwork of only one individual.

Sandip Ghosh, principal of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital at the time of the murder, was arrested by the CBI on charges of evidence tampering and the delay in filing the first information report (FIR), but was released on bail as the charge sheet had not been filed in 90 days, as is the rule. Inefficiencies in policing have also come to the fore; there was an inordinate delay in filing the FIR, for example, and other lapses. The parents of the doctor said they respect the judgment and sought the highest punishment for the accused but expressed hope that the investigation would not be halted so that all the culprits are nabbed, a sentiment echoed by protesting doctors, activists – and also the Opposition. There are cases pending in the High Court and the Supreme Court of India, which began hearing it *suo motu* after the uproar over the rape. It should not need a rape and murder to wake up to appalling working conditions, such as the lack of basic amenities and a safe room to rest. Kolkata's State-run hospitals are stretched thin and reports of corruption are rife. The State government announced a slew of measures for the protection of health workers, and the onus is on the administration to follow through with the promises.

A surge in radical governments, the hope of democracy

T.S. Tirumurti

was Permanent Representative/ Ambassador of India to the United Nations (UN), New York (2021-22) and President of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for August 2021

One thing seems fairly certain now. If an Islamic radical group were to seize power by force, then the world will be willing to legitimise it and forgive its past deeds. But till the time such a group does not capture power, it will either be fought tooth and nail and/or treated like an enemy.

We had Afghanistan in 2021. We now have Syria in 2024.

When the Taliban captured power on August 15, 2021, 13 members of the United States troops were killed in an Islamic State (IS) suicide attack, and $7.1 billion worth of U.S. weaponry was left behind in Afghanistan. However, the U.S. and the West as well as China and Russia bent backwards to work with the Taliban. The West justified this by saying that this would wean the Taliban away from supporting terrorism and help in the protection of women's and minorities' rights. They talked about "inclusive government" but democracy was not uppermost in their minds. The then UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, even told the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that the Taliban was 'misunderstood'.

Treated with kid gloves

The ultimate irony was how "*karma*" had come full circle. In the days preceding the Taliban's capture of Afghanistan, the "Troika Plus", of the U.S., China and Russia with Pakistan, had tried to coordinate their efforts in Afghanistan to keep India completely out and ignore our vital interests. In the UNSC, even an innocuous reference to the Heart of Asia Conference on Afghanistan was deleted from the draft statement because India was one of the countries attending it.

But when the events of August 2021 unfolded, India was the president of UNSC that month. Any text or resolution required India's concurrence. When UNSC Resolution 2593, after the Taliban takeover, was passed on August 30, India left its imprint particularly in the paragraph relating to Afghan soil not being used for terrorist activities. The express reference to terrorists and terrorist organisations in the UNSC Resolution 1267 sanctions list was inserted at India's behest, where it coordinated closely with the U.S. side. This was necessary to remove any ambiguity about Pakistani terrorist organisations associated with the ISIL (Daesh) and al-Qaeda, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed – listed in 1267 – from using Afghan soil to launch terrorist attacks on India.

In December 2021, the UNSC allowed the Taliban to get donor money directly into its coffers. With no political will among the P-5 or the West to demand accountability for implementing UNSCR 2593, the Taliban soon denied girls school education, imposed restrictions on women, and stopped all moves for an inclusive government. Now, the world looks the other way.

> The last thing India needs is the revival of Islamic radicalism in Bangladesh

Now, Syria and Bangladesh

And now Syria in 2024. We have just witnessed a radical Islamic leader Abu Muhammad al-Jolani or Ahmed al-Shaara of the Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) seize power, culminating in the toppling of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Al-Jolani was earlier leader of the al Qaeda in the region, with links to international terror groups. His radical outfit, the HTS, which was earlier an al Qaeda wing in Syria called the Jabhat al-Nusra, still features in the U.S. State Department list of terror groups. Mirroring what they did with the Taliban, the U.S. and the West have lined up behind the HTS and its leader. The first move of the U.S. was to remove the bounty of $10 million on al-Jolani's head for his capture. Capturing power can help evade capture also.

This is wonderful news for Islamic terrorists and extremist groups gaining ground, especially in Africa such as in Mali, and adopting IS and al Qaeda techniques to topple governments. But the world is preoccupied with Ukraine and West Asia. Now, India has a situation brewing closer to home, in Bangladesh.

Even if the collapse of the elected government in Bangladesh has been largely due to an autocratic government stifling democratic forces and losing the plot, under the guise of supporting regime change, the U.S. clearly downplayed the interests of its "strategic" partner India. It is propping up the interim military-led government of Muhammad Yunus, which is seen as tolerating, even encouraging, Islamic radical groups in Bangladesh and is a threat to its minorities. The last thing India needs is the revival of Islamic radicalism in Bangladesh, where the last 16 years have seen the two countries and its peoples come closer in a variety of ways for mutual benefit.

When Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League came to power in 2008, it was seen as free and fair elections with a cleaned-up electoral list and the Bangladesh Army staying on the sidelines. The people overwhelmingly rejected the violent past of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia and their Islamic radical partners such as the Jamaat-e-Islami. Just when one thought that the Jamaat-e-Islami stood discredited for siding with Pakistan in the 1971 war and rejected by the people of Bangladesh for causing mayhem and disrupting lives, the popular student protests of 2024 and the ensuing military coup have given them a fresh lease of life.

While there is no doubt that the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) – affiliated to the Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, the Islami Chhatra Shibir, the Hefazat-e-Islam, the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP) have taken advantage of the situation, it is not as if the people of Bangladesh have embraced them wholeheartedly. Consequently, these radical groups have tried to shore up support for their extremist ideologies by attacking the minority communities, forcing the interim government to release Islamic extremists from prison (such as like Jashimuddin Rahmani, head of the ABT), and adopting shrill anti-India rhetoric, conflating the dismantling of Sheikh Hasina's legacy with attacks on India. India should be careful not to fall into this trap.

Religious hate has been on the rise around the world. It was when this writer was India's Permanent Representative to the UN that India brought up, for the first time, in 2021-2022, the rise of religiophobia against non-Abrahamic religions, including against Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists. India condemned all forms of religious hate, whether in the U.S. and the West or in Bangladesh and the neighbourhood. While India may have taken its eye off the ball when it came to the Sheikh Hasina government, it cannot ignore Islamic extremism again rearing its head in Bangladesh and posing renewed danger to India's national security – something which New Delhi successfully prevented over the last 16 years.

The larger picture

However, for both sides to view the unfolding events purely through a religious lens – be it an Islamic lens or Hindu lens – would be a mistake. This has been counterproductive before and will be so now. In fact, Islamic radicals are baiting India, and, unfortunately, so are the officials who have been appointed as advisers to Mr. Yunus, precisely to polarise forces within their own country. On the other hand, India has the larger perspective in mind to protect its bilateral relations from damage. It has reiterated its readiness to do business with the interim government. India has removed most irritants in its bilateral relations in the last two decades, except maybe for the sharing of Teesta river waters. What is forgotten is that when Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) revolted in February 2009, just after the first clean elections of Bangladesh in December 2008, it was India which gave its rock solid support to the newly-elected government and helped save democracy.

It is in Bangladesh's own interest that this military coup does not translate into an Islamic coup and goes the way of Syria or Afghanistan. The silver lining is that, having tasted the power of democracy in 2008, and now in 2024, it will be difficult to put the clock back.

The historian must note that the past has many layers

Harbans Mukhia

taught history at the Jawaharlal Nehru University

It is of course the historian's professional responsibility to bring knowledge of the past back to life academically for which a rigorous training in the norms and the methods of the discipline is imparted in institutions like universities. The discipline requires the historian to imbibe its basic premises: evidence is the primary basis of one's research; each statement must be supported by evidence which itself has to undergo a critical evaluation for its authenticity, its proximity to the event or phenomenon under review, and its context and compatibility with other bits of evidence which might be corroborative or contradictory. The inferences drawn from the evidence must conform to the test of reason rather than providence or any explanation outside the realm of reason.

The other layers

So far so good. But the past has other layers not susceptible to evidence from the archives, texts, manuscripts or archaeology. One such layer is memory not captured in texts, manuscripts, documents or on the dug up field. It survives in popular memories of events, persons and happenings, often at variance with the accounts given by professional history. The crucial difference is that while the historian has bestowed an image of a person, event or phenomenon meticulously sticking to the prescribed modes and methods of research, popular memory is not bound by any such constraints. It does not have to adduce empirical evidence or even follow it up with an inference that is subject to rational analysis. Yet, its power as an image of the past remains undiminished.

Let us take some examples. Have we not heard of Emperor Akbar's court adorned with the nine jewels (*Nav Ratnas*)? No one had in Akbar's time. The ones counted in the group of nine included some fake ones, but the notion of *Nav Ratnas* is a much later popular creation, perhaps not before the 18th century. It does not alter history very much but lends some colour to the past. But some other memories do alter history as well, a little or drastically The story of Jodha Bai, for instance. One can shout oneself hoarse, as historians might, that there was no Jodha Bai in Akbar's harem and that Jahangir's mother was Harkha Bai, a princess of Amer, but Jodha Bai does not disappear from sight.

> Today's historian must engage with the 'facts' as well as what has been habitually dismissed as 'fiction'

But these memories are mere colourful diversions from the rather dry narrative of historical 'facts'. There are others that have proven to be far more powerful than the historians' version. The Babari masjid case is an outstanding instance of this power.

The example of Ayodhya

Several historians, with help from archaeologists, had argued during the 1980s that there was no evidence of the existence of a Ram temple which was demolished to construct the Babri Masjid. Evidence from a large number of sources from the 16th century on was unearthed to strengthen the argument. The first authentic evidence of a link between Lord Ram and the construction of the masjid dates to 1822 in a Persian-language court document which mentions a small platform within the four walls surrounding the masjid as Ram Janmasthan; although no temple is mentioned but Sita Ki Rasoi is. A lot of accretion to this bare mention occurs during the 19th century – some violence is recorded as is the intervention of the Awadh state.

Clearly, some sort of the memory of the association of the site of the masjid with Lord Ram had begun to grow, perhaps a few decades before it got recorded in 1822, and a lot was added on to it – some by its own evolution and some by deliberate action.

In the end, the Supreme Court of India, in its final judgement of 2019, put its stamp on the historians' evidence that no Ram temple, indeed no temple of any kind was demolished in 1528 to construct the masjid, and recorded the masjid's demolition on December 6, 1992 as a heinous crime and recommended prosecution of those guilty. Yet, going against its own finding, it gave away the small piece of land where the masjid stood for the construction of a Ram temple. In the end, memory proved far more decisive than 'history'.

On a holistic reconstruction

Historians have, in the pursuit of their reconstruction of the past, insulated the memory recorded in archives, texts documents and archaeological data, from popular memory and popular versions of history – which, in reality, extend to an age, besides persons and events. A holistic reconstruction of the past requires the historian to concern herself with popular memory as much as with archival data to investigate the social/cultural/political context of the origins of this memory, the process of its evolution, including its manipulation for given ends.

If history and social memory had been evolving through their own dynamics in the past, the present is a watershed moment when social media has created a massive space for, on the one hand, real common people's intervention in recollecting the past as well as for the grossest distortions of both the historian's version of the past and inflicting similarly distorted versions of memory.

Thus, today's historian, the professional custodian of the past, must engage with 'facts' as much as with what she has habitually dismissed as 'fiction' comprising the vast array of layers of the past. She must treat these as historical data: popular cultures of the past, gossip, conversations, silences, absences... History speaks most eloquently and consequentially only when it speaks in its entirety.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R.G. Kar case

The verdict may have been pronounced in the R.G. Kar case, but there is still one question to ask — what about the others who were involved, directly or indirectly? This has been a case that led to months of protests by medical staff and students, with the demand for justice for the victim and better security for medical staff.

The statement by the parents (Inside pages, January 19), "... But we believe the investigation will go on and more culprits will be caught", is enough to prove that the case has still to be closed.

Manya Sharma,
Bengaluru

The conviction of Sanjay Roy has reinstated the confidence of the public in the judicial system to some extent. But the fact that the other alleged perpetrators still remain at large shows that only half the battle has been fought.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Animal welfare

I write to express concern and indignation regarding the recent decision to prohibit the feeding of dogs within the site of the Kukkarahalli lake, Mysuru. Let the University of Mysore set an example of progressive governance by upholding compassion, legality, and ethical responsibility. This directive not only contravenes established legal frameworks but also disregards the basic principles of humanity and animal welfare, thereby warranting immediate revocation. This prohibition violates the guidelines issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India, which uphold the fundamental right to feed and care for stray animals in public spaces. The Supreme Court of India has, on multiple occasions, reaffirmed the importance of ensuring the welfare of stray animals while maintaining the delicate balance of coexistence.

Tom Hoppel,
Mysuru

'Lit for Life'

The 'Lit for Life' festival was a great effort which will be a harbinger of the reading habits of people, on the wane now due to digital intrusions. The session by David Walliams (I attended it with my grandson), which saw many children enjoying the programme, will be richly cherished by them. The only disadvantage was the overlapping of the programmes — at the main hall and the pavilion.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Recasting insolvency resolution

V.V. Sivakumar
is an advocate in the Madras High Court

Saai Sudharsan Sathiyamoorthy
is an advocate in the Madras High Court

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) is one of India's most significant economic reforms, introduced to address the challenges of insolvency resolution in a structured and time-bound manner.

At the time of its introduction, the IBC was seen as an important tool that would help India's standing in the business world and bring bad borrowers and big defaulters to book. Yet, as the law matured, certain issues have cropped up that demand attention, particularly regarding institutional capacity and procedural efficiency. The recent Supreme Court of India judgment in Jet Airways (*State Bank of India & Ors. vs The Consortium of Mr. Murari Lal Jalan and Mr. Florian Fritsch & Anr.*) has laid bare the many structural infirmities that are plaguing India's insolvency regime.

A double burden

The effective implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) hinges on the performance of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and its appellate body, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). These tribunals face the dual burden of handling corporate insolvencies under the IBC and cases under the Companies Act. This institutional architecture, however, suffers from what might be termed "temporal disjunction".

Conceived in 1999 based on the Eradi Committee's recommendations and operationalised in 2016, the NCLT's structure reflects the economic realities of a bygone era, leaving it ill-equipped to meet contemporary demands. With a sanctioned strength of 63 members – many of whom divide their time across multiple benches – the NCLT has become a bottleneck for insolvency resolutions and corporate transactions such as mergers and amalgamations.

Compounding the issue, several NCLT benches do not operate for the full working day, even when not tasked with handling cases from other benches.

As a result, delays have worsened. According to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), the average time for insolvency resolutions increased to 716 days in FY2023-24, up from 654 days in FY2022-23. This is despite the Supreme Court's repeated calls for adherence to the specific timelines provided in IBC, including in the Jet Airways case, where the Court has stated that the "NCLTs/NCLATs need to be sensitised of not exercising their judicial discretion in extending the timelines...in such a way that it may make the Code lose its effectiveness thereby rendering it obsolete".

The need for domain expertise

The current framework's deficiencies are manifest across other dimensions. What stands out the most is the qualitative dimension of institutional capacity. The current method of appointment ignores the need for domain experience. As the Court noted in the Jet Airways case, "Members often lack the domain knowledge required to appreciate the nuanced complexities involved in high-stakes insolvency matters...". This creates a paradox where an institution tasked with resolving complex cases is hindered by a lack of specialised knowledge.

However, the problems run deeper than capacity limitations. There is also the bureaucratic labyrinth. There is no effective system in place before the NCLTs for urgent listings. And as noted by the Supreme Court, the staff of the Registry is given wide powers to list or not to list a particular matter. Perhaps most troubling is what the Court has termed a "growing tendency" among NCLT and NCLAT members to ignore or defy its orders, which threatens the very foundation of India's judicial hierarchy.

The Jet Airways case is one example of the many structural infirmities affecting India's insolvency regime

This is not merely about institutional efficiency. It is about institutional integrity.

Sparse use of alternatives

The procedural framework further exacerbates these constraints. The requirement for a mandatory hearing for all applications including for progress reports, which is not in any way necessary from the standpoint of natural justice, results in considerable delays. The limited use of alternative dispute settlement methods adds to the problems of an already overworked system.

Various jurisdictions across the globe contend with similar challenges pertaining to institutional capacity and procedural efficiency. Nevertheless, the magnitude of India's scale, its endemic corruption and its economic ambitions necessitate solutions that transcend mere incremental enhancements. The recent reform proposals, including the initiative for mandatory mediation prior to the submission of insolvency applications, present a degree of optimism.

Further, there needs to be a hybrid model that values judicial experience and domain expertise. Also, the time is ripe for procedural innovations that go beyond piecemeal changes. The creation of specialised benches for different categories of cases could enhance both efficiency and expertise and ensure that mergers and amalgamations are cleared in time.

Pertinently, infrastructure must not remain an afterthought. Adequate courtrooms and a qualified, permanent support staff are critical to sustaining these institutions within the broader economic framework. Above all, India's insolvency regime must evolve beyond mere debt resolution to serve as a proactive driver of economic rejuvenation, especially as the country aims to attract greater foreign investment. At this very important point in time, the choice is clear. The time for a bold reimagining is now.

Parties and their 'presidential' problems

The crucial post of 'State unit President' has ignited much political activity

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa
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Over the past few weeks, political circles in Karnataka have been abuzz with intense discussions on the post of the State unit presidents of all the three major political parties, i.e., the Indian National Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (Secular) or JD(S).

Both the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP have been besieged with dissident activities to unseat the incumbent chiefs, while the JD(S) is anxious about the appointment of a new president amid rumours of the Congress making efforts to poach JD(S) legislators. Ironically, the leaders of all parties are taking potshots at rival political leaders on the issue of party leadership. There are some curious subplots too, such as the fact that the Belagavi-based Jharkiholi brothers – Ramesh and Satish – being in the forefront of seeking changes in the BJP and the Congress.

The key issues

In the Congress, the intervention of central leaders seems to have had a limited impact on the discussion of replacing Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President D.K. Shivakumar, who is also the State's Deputy Chief Minister. Senior cabinet Ministers from the Congress continue to make statements in the public domain, and these include K.N. Rajanna, Satish Jarkiholi and G. Parameshwara. Battered by the veiled attacks from his detractors, a miffed Deputy Chief Minister went to the extent of saying that "the president post was not sale in any store".

The Ministers have been speaking about the party's "one man one post" formula and Mr. Shivakumar being saddled with two important portfolios that is affecting organisational work. Internally, however, it is being speculated as the effort by those loyal to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to unsettle and weaken Mr. Shivakumar's hold on the party, who is waiting in the wings to helm the government.

The Chief Minister's loyalists have argued that Mr. Shivakumar, who took charge of the party in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, has completed his tenure and what is in place now is only an interim arrangement. A full-fledged president is required to lead the party into the taluk panchayat and zilla panchayat elections. The statements and counter-complaints have been so intense that the All India Congress Committee President, Mallikarjun Kharge, has asked all to "shut up and do their jobs.".

The BJP too has been facing rebel trouble, with a section of veteran leaders opposing the first-time legislator and BJP State President, B.Y. Vijayendra. Appointed in November 2023, he is the son of former Karnataka Chief Minister and Lingayat strongman B.S. Yediyurappa.

Not only is the group led by the senior legislators Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi openly defying the party's diktats but it is also attempting to undermine Mr. Vijayendra's authority by making personal allegations, ultimately seeking his removal. The dissident group has accused Mr. Vijayendra of making compromises with the Congress on political issues, thus diluting the BJP's core ideology. Both groups have made multiple visits to New Delhi to meet central leaders, and Mr. Yatnal has been issued notice for his actions.

The lack of unity and effective leaders besides perceived groupism have affected the BJP. The saffron party is seen as having lacklustre outings in the legislature sessions where the ruling Congress's powerful Ministers and leaders have successfully defended the government despite there being major allegations of corruption and scandals. Though Mr. Vijayendra has been appointed for a term of three years, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a BJP State unit President will be elected soon. Mr. Vijayendra has expressed his readiness to face this election just as the dissident group has said it is.

The JD(S), whose fortunes seem to be plummeting with each election, is also looking for a new president since the incumbent, H.D. Kumaraswamy, who is the Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, is unable to find the time to carry out his duties. A perceived move to promote his son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy – he has, so far, faced three consecutive electoral defeats – has been put off for the time being. The party has announced that the new president will be 'elected' by April 2025. In the past, the first family headed by the party supremo and former Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda, had a say in appointing the presidents.

What the ceasefire deal means for Palestine and Israel

The process, with effect from Sunday, is to involve the freeing of hostages, the increasing of aid and the beginning of the extensive reconstruction of Gaza

DATA POINT

Gautam Nirmal Doshi
Godhashri Srinivasan

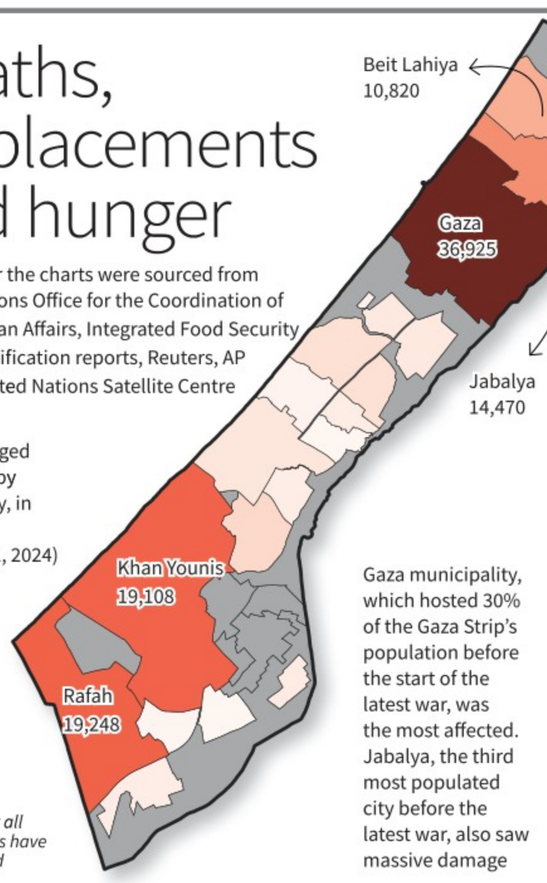
After over a year of war, a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took hold in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. Among other things, the ceasefire process would involve the freeing of hostages on both sides and increasing aid as well as a reconstruction of destroyed buildings and a cessation of attacks. The charts show the scale of the humanitarian crisis. The Gaza Strip's access to food and other supplies deteriorated sharply after October 7, 2023, the day of the Hamas attack. The number of humanitarian aid trucks entering the area plummeted from around 500 to 600 a day to a fraction of that (**Chart 1**). The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification reports show that at least 85% of Gaza's population was categorised as facing 'crisis', 'emergency' and 'catastrophic' levels of food insecurity ever since December 2023 (**Chart 2**). As of January 15, 2025, there were around 98 hostages. Even fewer were confirmed to be alive. This is of the 251 people taken hostage by Hamas on October 7 (**Chart 3**).

Analysis by the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), showed that 69% of structures were damaged in the Gaza Strip, as of December 1, 2024. UNOSAT identified that 60,368 structures were destroyed, 20,050 were severely damaged, 56,292 moderately damaged, and 34,102 possibly damaged (**Chart 4**). Since September 6, 2024, when the earlier analysis of UNOSAT was carried out, the governorates of North Gaza and Rafah have experienced the highest rise in damage. Around 3,138 new structures were damaged in North Gaza and around 3,054 in Rafah. Within North Gaza, Jabalya municipality had the highest number of newly damaged structures, totalling 1,339 (**Map**).

Deaths, displacements and hunger

The data for the charts were sourced from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification reports, Reuters, AP and the United Nations Satellite Centre

Map: Damaged structures, by municipality, in Gaza (as of December 1, 2024)



Map is not to scale and not all municipalities have been mapped

Gaza municipality, which hosted 30% of the Gaza Strip's population before the start of the latest war, was the most affected. Jabalya, the third most populated city before the latest war, also saw massive damage

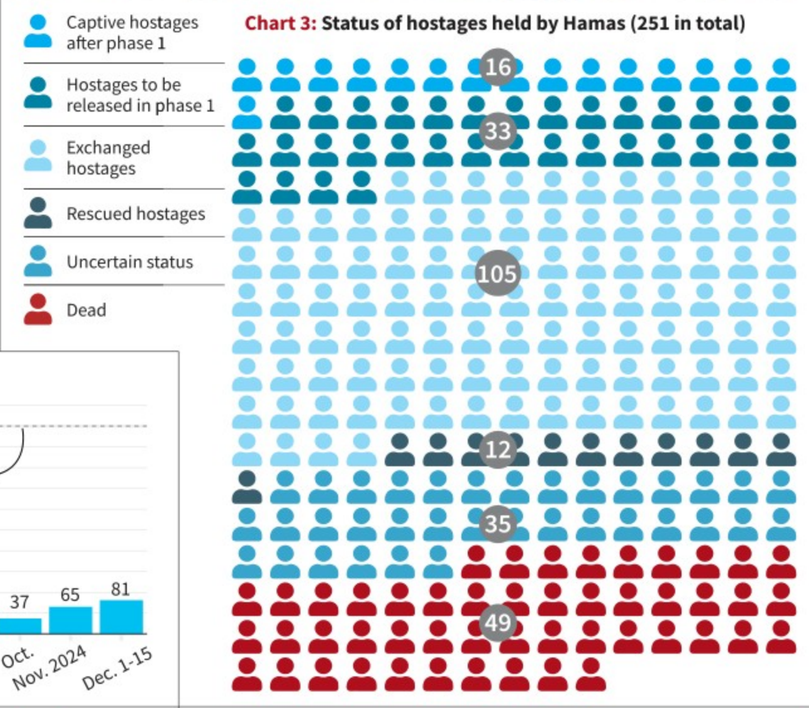


Chart 3: Status of hostages held by Hamas (251 in total)

Chart 1: Fewer humanitarian aid trucks reached Gaza after the war

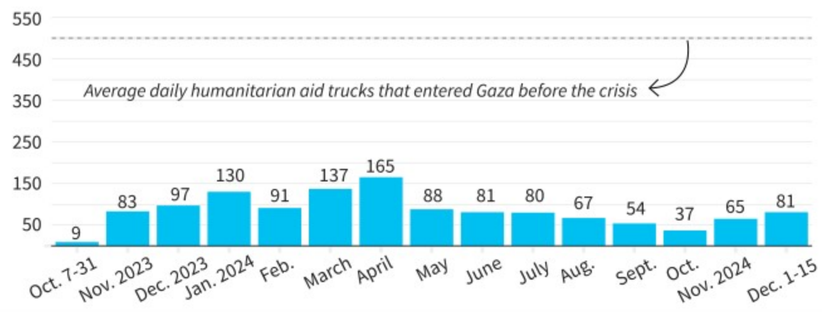


Chart 2: Food insecurity levels in Gaza

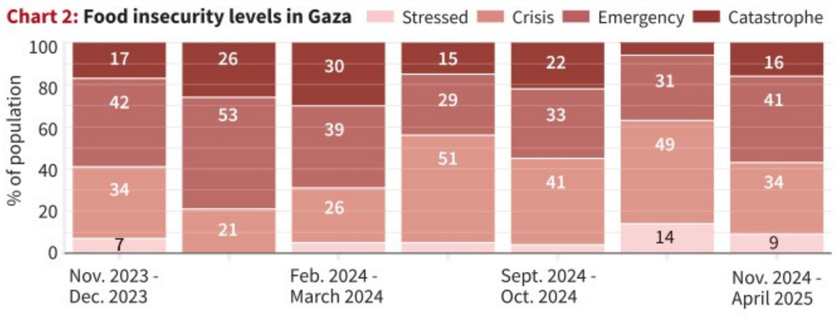
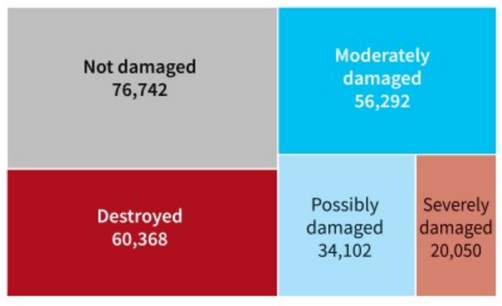


Chart 4: Status of structures

69% of the structures i.e., 1,70,812 have been damaged since October 7, 2023. The data are as of December 1, 2024



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1975

Dock Workers Call Off Strike

NEW DELHI, Jan. 19.

The four-day-old strike of the port and dock workers was called off to-night following an agreement between workers' representatives and the Government.

The announcement of withdrawal of the strike with immediate effect was made by workers' representatives after the 11-hour marathon discussions with the Union Shipping Minister, Mr. Kamlapati Tripathi.

Workers will be paid by way of interim relief an amount of Rs. 120 for the period January 1, 1974 to July 5, 1974 and an amount of Rs. 180 for the period July 6, 1974 to December 31, 1974.

For the period commencing from January 1 this year the workers will be paid by way of interim relief a sum of Rs. 50 a month. All these interim reliefs would be subject to the provisions of the Additional Emoluments Compulsory Deposit Act, 1974. The workers' representatives will meet the Minister again after one month to discuss how this interim relief should be treated.

Under the agreement the Government accepted the demand of the port and dock workers that the proposed wage revision should come into effect from January 1, 1974.

The President of the Port and Dock Worker's Federation, Mr. S.R. Kulkarni, later said that half of the amount would be paid to the workers in cash. He congratulated the port and dock workers on the peaceful manner in which they conducted the strike. He also expressed his gratitude to Mr. Tripathi for his enlightened approach during the negotiations.

Mr. Tripathi expressed his happiness at the termination of the strike. He also thanked the workers for conducting the negotiations in a cordial manner. He said: "I believe that now the work will go on in ports as usual and the backlog will be cleared soon.It is always good to settle things by negotiations instead of resorting to strike."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1925

Queen Mother of Nepal

(Associated Press of India)

Her Majesty the Queen mother of Nepal and party left Madras last night at 7-40 by special train for Rameswaram. According to programme they will arrive Rameswaram on Thursday early morning. Enroute to Rameswaram they will halt for six hours at Trichinopoly and about eight hours at Madura. From Rameswaram they will pay a visit to Dhanushkodi on the 23rd. They leave Rameswaram after staying there for about 5 days on 26th instant reaching Arkonam on the morning of 28th instant.

'Language should connect with people'

Carnatic musician Sanjay Subrahmanyan, during a conversation with Krupa Ge, the co-author of his memoir, and Sowmiya Ashok, explained how reading Tamil literature influenced the way he sang his songs. In Carnatic music, the language has changed because Thyagaraja composed at a time when Telugu was a court

Sanjay Subrahmanyan

language. But when you want to move the music out, you need to talk or sing in languages that are acceptable and accessible, he said.

The life skill with an anchor to the past

Food anchors us to our past and keeps us rooted while writing recipes are like word paintings, said Sunita Kohli, who has published *The Indian Cookbook,* a compilation of recipes, during the session 'Secrets of the Indian kitchen: stories about food'. Ms. Kohli, with food writer Ruth DSouza Prabu and Pankaja Srinivasan, shared personal anecdotes and discussed recipes during their session to highlight that cooking is a life skill, not a task.

Food makes memories and helps to cling on to our traditions, she said.

"Food evolves as it goes along melding together influences of different cultures and places. With our personal histories defining us, cookbooks are a lens to view a particular society or world by those who love food," she added.

Sunita Kohli, right, and Ruth DSouza Prabhu, centre, in conversation with Pankaja Srinivasan. VELANKANNI RAJ B

An ambassador to the world of literature

The former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and now author Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri spoke about her debut novel, *Swallowing the Sun*, in conversation with artist Latha Menon, recounting her journey from being a diplomat to a writer. Her debut novel is a sweeping narrative set against India's

Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri

freedom movement. The novel celebrates Marathi literature, in more ways than one, as the writer intersperses the prose with Marathi spiritual hymn.

INBRIEF

People wear different hats in different contexts: Manu Pillai

In a special session commemorating four decades of the *Frontline* magazine, author and historian Manu S. Pillai sat down with *Frontline's* Editor Vaishna Roy to discuss his latest book *Gods, Guns and Missionaries* as an antecedent to exploring the arrival of modern-day Hinduism. Asked why he chose to write on Hinduism, Mr. Pillai said that identity in India has many blurred lines and cannot be boxed easily into binaries. "In India, people hold both religious identity and social identity as equally important things rather than viewing them as opposing forces... People wear different hats in different contexts."

Writing made Kamal Haasan's films stand out, says Nassar

It was the writing that made Kamal Haasan's films stand out, said actor Nassar in a conversation with film academic K. Hariharan and actor Abhirami. "Very few know him (Mr. Haasan) as a writer, because the films he made like *Thevar Magan*, *Hey Raam*... it is always the writing which took the film to a different level," he said. Mr. Hariharan, whose book *Kamal Haasan: A Cinematic Journey*, explores Mr. Haasan's career through 40 films, said when he first told the actor about his project, the latter was surprised. "His first reaction was, 'Are you kidding? Do you really think there are 40 worth watching?,'" he said.

Nalini Malani speaks about her revolutionary work of art

Art has been intertwined in Nalini Malani's life since her twenties, with the written word creating space for experimental form of art. At the session, "You can't keep acid in a paper bag", Ms. Malani said her art had been primarily influenced by the books she had travelled with throughout her life. The body of work Ms. Malani presented to her audience at *The Hindu* Lit for Life was a compilation from her art exhibition around the world, each piece addressing a variety of themes, most notably, how she uses art as a form of resistance, speaking to issues such as violence against women, and the plight of dispossessed. "I work in the contemporary times even if I speak about old mythologies, they all have a meaning to me, " said Ms. Malani.

Sponsors

The Hindu Lit for Life event is presented by KIA India and is organised in association with Christ University. Associate Partners: LIC, RR Donnelley, Blue Star, Brigade Group, NITTE Deemed-to-be University, PROchure, Singer, Chennai Port Authority & Kamarajar Port Ltd., Uttarakhand Tourism, Vajiram and Ravi, Indian Bank, Akshayakalpa and ICFAI Group. Realty Partner: Casagrand. Bookstore Partner: Crossword. Food Partner: Wow Momo. Beverage Partner: Beachville. Radio Partner: Big FM. TV Partner: Puthiya Thalaimurai. Gift Partner: Anand Prakash. Water Partner: Repute. The event is supported by: U.S. Consulate, Chennai.

Liberalism and Hinduism are totally compatible, says Shashi Tharoor

The MP says his book *Why I am A Hindu* was written at a time when it was necessary to offer an alternative view to 'weaponisation of Hinduism for political purposes'; he says no one has monopoly in Hinduism and the assumption that everyone who votes for BJP believes in Hindutva is not true

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Current concerns: Shashi Tharoor, MP, in conversation with N. Ravi, Director, The Hindu Group, and writer Francesc Miralles at the Lit for Life on Sunday. R. RAGU

Hinduism offers an extraordinarily eclectic mix of choices and is totally compatible with liberalism, Shashi Tharoor, MP, said at the Lit for Life on Sunday.

Mr. Tharoor was in conversation with N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., and Francesc Miralles, author of the book *The four purusharthas: The Path To Happiness, Success, and a Meaningful Life*.

Explaining why he wrote a book called *Why I am A Hindu*, Mr. Tharoor said it was done at a time when "weaponisation of Hinduism for political purposes in our country had reached a particular stage" where it was "necessary to offer an alternative view". "I was not prepared to surrender my faith to one particular narrow interpretation," he said, adding that he thought writing this book was necessary "to reclaim the idea of Hinduism" for those Hindus who wish to agree with him. "And it turned out to be awful... [but] found some resonance amongst the new readers," he said recalling the controversy the book evoked when it was published in 2018.

Mr. Tharoor said Hinduism was an ideal faith for the 21st century. "No one is taking a monopoly in Hinduism. Swami Vivekananda said it is not just a religion that teaches tolerance, it teaches universal acceptance. There are multiple choices of worship and individuals have tremendous amounts of freedom," he said.

Responding to a question on the public support for Hindutva reflected in the last three general elections, Mr. Tharoor pointed out that the BJP got 31% of the votes in the 2014 election, 37% in 2019, and 36% in 2024.

"In no case, they have won a majority of the Hindu population, which is 80%. We tend to lose sight of the fact that in our first-past-the-post system, a party doesn't actually need a majority of votes or a popular sentiment to get a majority of seats. The assumption that everyone who votes for the BJP necessarily believes in Hindutva is also not true. But there is much greater acceptance for Hindutva, particularly across northern India, than there was 10 years ago. That is partially a reflection of the success of the BJP in politics," the Congress MP said.

Cradle of spirituality

Talking about writing a book on the four Purusharthas, Mr. Miralles said, "India is the cradle of spirituality. Answers to questions like what it means to be human, and what is the meaning of life were answered in Indian philosophies. The roots are here. India is not only an inspiration that comes from the past, but it is an inspiration for the future too."

Speaking about happiness, Mr. Miralles said, "I would define happiness in two ways. The first is simplicity. The happiest people we have met in our lives are very simple. Another one is purpose. When you discover your mission in life, that would give happiness."

Soumya Swaminathan calls for body to regulate environmental health

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Interconnected issues: Soumya Swaminathan, right, and Supriya Sahu, left, with Ramya Kannan. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

India needs a regulatory agency to address interconnected issues of public health and environment, said Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and former Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization.

Dr. Swaminathan, who was in a discussion on "One Health: guiding our future" along with Supriya Sahu, Health Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, and Ramya Kannan, Health Editor, *The Hindu*, at Lit for Life on Sunday, said the integration of data on animal and human health is essential to address interconnected challenges such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food security.

She highlighted three critical environmental challenges: biodiversity loss, climate change, and global warming, and pollution of land and water.

She spoke about the interconnectedness of these issues, drawing from conservationist Rachel Carson's insight that "in nature, nothing exists alone".

The speakers agreed that human beings often tend to work in silos.

During events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, people come together, demonstrating the potential of unity. Yet, once the urgency fades, the collaborative spirit often wanes, said Dr. Swaminathan, adding that the challenge lies in sustaining this momentum.

Ms. Sahu said government departments will establish a coordinated mechanism for integrating data on zoonotic diseases, as part of Tamil Nadu's 'One Health' efforts.

Highlighting the role of community involvement in One Health initiatives, Ms. Sahu said the success of various programmes highlights the importance of community participation.

Delving into science of ageing, mortality

In the long run: Venki Ramakrishnan, left, in conversation with Sashi Kumar at Lit for Life. M. VEDHAN

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Nobel laureate and biologist Venki Ramakrishnan, in a conversation with journalist and media entrepreneur Sashi Kumar, at *the* Lit for Life on Sunday, unpacked the biological and societal implications of ageing.

Drawing from his book *Why We Die: The New Science of Ageing and the Quest for Immortality*, Mr. Ramakrishnan offered a broad view of the science behind mortality, framed by evolutionary theory and emerging research.

A central theme of the discussion was evolution's role in shaping the human lifespan. Mr. Ramakrishnan explained that natural selection prioritised traits that enhanced reproductive success, not longevity. "Ageing is a byproduct of evolution favouring genes that help us pass on our DNA. Beyond that, evolution doesn't care how long we live," he said.

This evolutionary framework also explains why large animals, such as whales, tend to live longer. Their size offers protection against predators, allowing evolution to optimise longer lifespans. In humans, life expectancy has increased from 60 to over 80 in many regions, thanks to advances in public health, medicine, and nutrition. Yet, the maximum lifespan remains capped at about 120, Mr. Ramakrishnan said.

However, most of the increase in life expectancy came from solving problems in early life, largely through public health measures such as sanitation, clean water, vaccination, antibiotics, and nutrition, he said.

While Mr. Kumar pointed out that with declining birth rates and increasing longevity, many countries, including China, are incentivising larger families to counterbalance demographic shifts, Mr. Ramakrishnan stated that slowing the ageing process might inadvertently slow the turnover of ideas, creating a society that becomes increasingly stagnant and resistant to change. This stagnation, he noted, could affect everything from governance to cultural evolution.

Queen Sembiyan was the real founder of the Chola Empire, says Kanisetti

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

Royal musings: Anirudh Kanisetti, right, in conversation with Ashwitha Jayakumar at Lit For Life. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

In his contentions on the components of the Chola Empire and the elements that made it great, public historian Anirudh Kanisetti argued that Chola queen Sembiyan Mahadevi, in many ways, was the "real founder" of the Chola Empire.

In a conversation with author Ashwitha Jayakumar during the session "The mighty Cholas" at the Lit for Life, Mr. Kanisetti said if not for the queen Sembiyan Mahadevi, "there would not have been the Chola Empire".

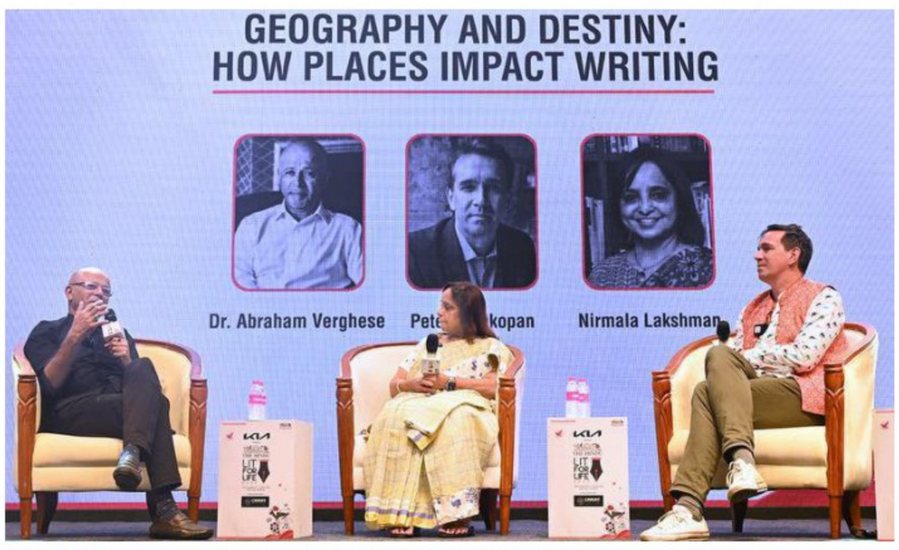
Elaborating on how she patronised temples and built popular support for the Chola Empire, Mr. Kanisetti said the queen clearly saw temple construction as a very important part of the public persona.

"I am willing to argue that Sembiyan Mahadevi, in many ways, is the real founder of the Chola Empire, as we know it, because she builds this popular support, she builds this tax base and that is what enables her grand nephew Rajaraja Chola to go out on these extraordinary campaigns of conquests," he said, pointing out from historical records on how one could notice that there were not any royals before her, especially in the Chola family.

When geography and displacement are 'terribly important' to the story

In the session on 'How places impact writing', Abraham Verghese recalls that as a perennial outsider, he was able to notice things that the locals did not notice in Tennessee; Peter Frankopan says while history solidifies people's names and events, geography dictates how we think about the world

Radhika Santhanam
CHENNAI



Tale of places: Novelist Abraham Verghese, left, and historian Peter Frankopan, right, in conversation with Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group, at the Lit for Life on Sunday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

How does geography impact writing? How can we make history more inclusive? How important is the concept of home? How does politics affect the movement of people?

These were some of the questions discussed at the Lit for Life session titled "Geography and destiny: how places impact writing". The conversation between novelist Abraham Verghese and historian Peter Frankopan was moderated by Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group.

Dr. Verghese spoke of how geography played a major role in changing his destiny. He was born in Ethiopia to Indian parents and was later displaced by revolution and civil war. From Ethiopia, he moved to India, and then to the U.S. This, he said, changed his concept of home.

"Personally, it's a disadvantage. But for a writer, this is not a bad thing," Dr. Verghese said. "It is because I was a perennial outsider that I was able to notice things that the locals did not notice in Tennessee [the location of his book, *My Own Country*]." He said that for both his fiction and non-fiction writing, geography was "terribly important to the story."

History and geography

Speaking of the connections between history and geography, Mr. Frankopan said that first, as a historian, he was not a soloist. "My orchestra is in the voices of many people who have lived before me in many parts of the world and I have the luxury of amplifying their voices," he said.

Mr. Frankopan spoke of the challenges of writing about the world. "We always leave a certain set of people behind. In Chennai, this weekend, I don't think anyone is going to be talking of central or south America. But we can have conversations about geography even while remembering that a large number of people do not leave home. History is not just about geography or destiny, but about how we sit in the large time and space continuum."

Increasingly regional

Speaking of the challenge of inclusivity while writing history, he said, "Big buildings and theatres are the products of establishment of hierarchies, whether religious or secular; they are expressions of power. Those are the histories of the elite. But to be all-inclusive, we also need to remember that history is also about the mundane: the voices of women, of labour forces, and so on."

Dr. Verghese responded saying that though the world was speaking more and more about inclusivity, it was becoming increasingly regional.

Mr. Frankopan underlined that both history and geography could be prisons. "While history solidifies people's names and events, geography dictates how we think about the world. In every culture, we have ideas of how people behave in certain areas, how they behave when they have a certain skin colour. These stereotypes can be terrifying and are the source of prejudice," he said. "The job of a historian is to be granular and nuanced."

Dr. Lakshman asked how politics interfered with the movement of people across geographies. Dr. Verghese said he was struck by the stories that governments tell to make themselves palatable to the people when those stories were, in fact, completely different from reality.

Mr. Frankopan responded to this observation by tracing migration patterns in the U.S.

"We have all heard of the story of the American dream and there is some truth to it. But at some point, if you were Spanish or Portuguese, you were not welcome. In the early 20th century, there was anti-Chinese legislation. The U.S. is highly selective in how it tells its stories," he said.

The session concluded with Dr. Lakshman speaking of the idea of *ooru* or region, which she elaborated in her book *Tamils: The Portrait of a Community*. "The earliest communities of Tamil people decided to divide their habitation into five eco-zones or *thinais*. Civilisations and communities grew with specific professions oriented to the geography of the land," she said.

"This set the tone for the success of local communities right from the early ages of Tamil history."

When the mighty pen breaks stereotypes

Breaking the bias: Huma Qureshi, centre, and Shinie Antony, right, in conversation with Nandini Krishnan. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Soma Basu
CHENNAI

Challenging gender stereotypes, actor Huma Qureshi who has turned author with her debut novel *Zeba: An Accidental Superhero* and author Shinie Antony with her book *Eden Abandoned: The Story of Lilith*, offered thought-provoking words in their session on "Wonder women: powerful women in fiction" at Lit for Life on Sunday.

Moderated by Nandini Krishnan, the panel explored the portrayal of women protagonists as misfits if they break boundaries and the accepted structure in society.

Ms. Qureshi said her book is a tribute to every woman who breaks every rule. "I am obsessed with the idea of misfits saving the world. My version of reluctant superhero is nothing like the powdered and manicured well-behaved person but a girl like Zeba, a rich New Yorker who smokes, has a therapist, and manages to defeat an evil king of a make-believe kingdom," she said.

Myths shattered

Ms. Antony said her book is about Jewish mythology rediscovered by a Jewish feminist. The character Lilith is cast out of Eden to shatter myths such as a woman ending up 'distraught' when she does not find that one man meant to be waiting for her. "Lilith understands to reduce the significance of that one man, she had to make many other men special," she said.

The speakers talked about how in every religion and culture women are shamed for everything from their clothes to hair. An angry man could be seductive but an angry woman is an oxymoron. "Women can use their anger judiciously; an angry woman who articulates is a complete work of art," she said.

Aruna Roy and T.M. Krishna peel off the layers of identity existing in India

Sanjana Ganesh
CHENNAI

Free-flowing talk: Aruna Roy and T.M. Krishna engage in a moment of humour on Sunday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

In a captivating session full of wit, punch lines, and laughter, social activist Aruna Roy and Carnatic musician T.M. Krishna attempted to peel the layers off the 'identity onion' in their conversation "Personal is political" at the Lit for Life on Sunday .

Even as they began, the two writers who have been friends for 20 years, engaged in repartee. "We have started off with an argument. We have been suggesting that the other begin," Mr. Krishna said.

The speaker and the moderator have distinct identities outside their books – one is a famous social activist and former IAS officer, while the other is a celebrated Carnatic musician – but decided to jump right in and discuss the theme of the session, fashioned on Ms. Roy's book *The Personal is Political - An Activist's Memoir*.

Mr. Krishna wondered aloud how Ms. Roy engaged with the 'grey' layers of her identity. Here, she spoke about making choices that propelled equality and prevented misuse of power and discrimination. She added that bullies had existed throughout her life, both in school and in the Indian Administrative Service. But they were sophisticated in the latter, she said. But the commitment was to fight for what was right. "I have always been an aggressive woman who began fighting battles early on," she said.

As she had no history of suppression when she moved to Delhi, she only presented parts of her identity that engaged with her gender and class. It did not pervade into her caste, she said.

However, this conversation of intersectionality, particularly on privilege, was one she actively engaged with, she said, quoting how her friend, Naruti, a Dalit woman from rural Rajasthan, often challenged her.

This is when Mr. Krishna interjected with a question that challenged one of the remarks regarding the book. "It says that you represent India's marginalised. That's a bit problematic, isn't it," he asked.

Ms. Roy said that the intention was for it to be noticed, and added that she had been actively representing the interest of the marginalised over the years.

"One must not do it for personal gain, awards, or to gain political space. I got the mandate for representation from the members of the communities," she said.

This is the only reason why she volunteered and joined campaigns such as those on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Right to Information Act.

When N. Ram, Director of The Hindu Group, asked the two members on stage whether their deliberation on their respective identities was sometimes narcissistic or limiting, the two had distinct answers.

While Ms. Roy suggested that accountability was key to preventing a sense of over-analysing, Mr. Krishna said that doubt was often not necessarily wrong as it allowed for realignment.

"It is likely that I have blind spots. I have had them for several years. But the intention is to engage with it with honesty," he said.

Feminist icon

Ms. Roy's feminism shone through during the session. In her two cents to the youth of today, she highlighted that dreams are manifold. People must hence engage with society in a manner where they are not socially constrained by the expectations of family.

She said India feels like a violent society today. She suggested that people hence protect the nation through active thought and action. She suggested that the country renew its commitment to Gandhiji's nonviolence and the Constitution as they are talismans.

The author concluded by saying that she is confident that women will lead this world.

From Gandhiji to Modi, the role of Gujaratis in building and shaping the country

Strong bookmark: Salil Tripathi , right, with Ranvir Shah. M. VEDHAN

Radhika Santhanam
CHENNAI

Journalist and author Salil Tripathi, in his new book, *Gujaratis: The Portrait of a Community*, discusses the role of Gujaratis in nation building.

In a conversation with entrepreneur and cultural activist Ranvir Shah at the Lit for Life, Mr. Tripathi, a Gujarati who grew up in Mumbai, described himself as an "outsider looking in and an insider looking out".

Through several small chapters, Mr. Tripathi has written about the "community of 55 million people in India who consider Gujarati to be their mother tongue and possibly six million more abroad".

The most famous personality from Gujarat is arguably Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. Shah said that while most Gujaratis equate Gandhi with *ahimsa* (nonviolence), Mr. Tripathi's book also speaks of *asmita* (self-awareness).

Mr. Tripathi explained how the humble concept has changed over the years to acquire a more aggressive tenor.

Mr. Tripathi compared and contrasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also from Gujarat, with Gandhiji.

"At the risk of sounding glib, I would say that Gandhi was passionate about the empowerment of women and cleanliness, just as Mr. Modi is. He was stubborn, just like Mr. Modi is known to be. But while Gandhi would persuade people to do something, Mr. Modi simply orders people around," he said.

Gujarat has produced some of the most successful industrialists of India (Tata Group, Reliance, Adani, Wipro), excellent cricketers, artists, dancers, among others, he said.

The discussion also focused on the polycultures of Gujaratis. On being asked specifically about the plight of Dalits in Gujarat, Mr. Tripathi pointed out that the "situation is bad." He said, "The NGO Navsarjan's FCRA has been taken away. We saw what happened in Una [In 2016, several Dalits were flogged on the pretext of cow protection]..."

However, while there has been violence, there have also been many fighting for peace, he said. "They are little candles lighting up the place."

INBRIEF

Miss Malini and Krish Ashok's survival kit for Internet age

Digital influencer Malini Agarwal (also known as Miss Malini) and Krish Ashok, author of *The Masala Lab*, took the audience at *The Hindu* Lit for Life through their journey through the cyber world on Sunday, touching upon the subjects of online etiquette, how to deal with trolls, the creation and consumption ratio, kindness, and even the use of AI, which all act as a survival kit to survive and thrive in the virtual world. The Internet is infested with trolls and bullies, whose only aim is to grab attention. "The anatomy of a troll is generally someone who is really angry about something and in very few cases does the trolling have anything to do with you," said Ms. Agarwal adding that online trolls must not be taken personally.

Mental health the secret for disease-free life, say doctors

The secret of a healthy, disease-free life is the inner health. Stressing over small issues, and holding grudges could lead to a stressful life, said doctors at the session on 'The promise of integrative medicine'. Homoeopath and founder of Soukya International Holistic Health Centre Issac Mathai and neuropsychiatrist and founder of Buddhi Clinic and Neurokrish Foundation E.S. Krishnamoorthy in a conversation with author Vasudha Rai, explained why disease occurred. Dr. Isaac said he found that physical health bordered on the well-being of a person's inner health. Youth are more aware of their mental health but they are also under pressure, similarly among older people the issue is the loneliness that predisposes them to depression, Dr. Krishnamoorthy pointed out.

Exhibit details the best of *The Hindu's* Ground Zero

An exhibit on the best Ground Zero stories from *The Hindu* captivated visitors at *The Hindu* Lit for Life 2025. Ground Zero is a weekly series of narrative journalism on significant events. As Suresh Nambath, Editor of *The Hindu*, describes it, the stories shed light on "the lives of ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances". A book compiling the finest Ground Zero stories from recent years has been published, and the exhibit was centered on this collection. It featured stories and photographs from major events, including the Wayanad landslide, the R.G. Kar rape and murder, and the hooch deaths in Tamil Nadu. The exhibit, designed by Sunalini Mathew, Associate Editor, Dinesh Krishnan, Visual Editor, and Radhika Santhanam, Senior Assistant Editor, provided an immersive experience of these stories.

Heartfelt words: Visitors signing a board at *The Hindu* Lit for Life event in Chennai on Sunday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Lending an ear: A youngster holding a placard seeking stories at the festival. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

A piece of history: Lit for Life attendees checking a framed copy of an old front page of *The Hindu* on Sunday. M. VEDHAN

Interactive session: A member of the audience asking a question after a discussion at the Lit for Life event on Sunday. R. RAGU

Stories of the kings, begums and colonisers of Awadh

Fresh insights: Writer Ira Mukhoty speaking at *The Hindu* Lit for Life event in Chennai on Sunday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Sanjana Ganesh
CHENNAI

Ira Mukhoty's fascination for the Mughal empire began in Delhi. She grew up around the *baugs*, *quilas* and lanes of one of the richest kingdoms in the world. "The Mughals were all around us, in food, buildings, language and some of the words," she says.

When she stumbled upon the history of emperor Shah Jahan's daughter, Jahanara Begum, she realised that little to nothing was said of one of the most powerful and wealthiest women of her time (around 1658). She had controlled trade across the world, commissioned buildings, and connected with agents, authored a biography on Sufi saints, and continued the lineage. Yet, little to nothing was said of one of the most famous women of the 17th Century. "How wide is the lacunae? How many such women have been forgotten," she wondered. This thought led to Ms. Mukhoty's first non-fiction work *Heroines: Powerful Indian Women of Myth and History*.

Ever since, the author has not looked back. In her conversation with Vidya Singh on Sunday at *The Hindu* Lit for Life, Ms. Mukhoty spoke about piecing together parts of history that interested her the most while contextualising the time and space that people occupied in a side-by-side comparison of the most famous men of the time.

In a session titled "The rise and fall of Awadh", the author read from her latest book *The Lion and The Lily: The Rise and Fall of Awadh*, while also speaking about her writing process. In a fascinating talk, the author spoke about the impact of the French players in Indian courts through the 18th Century; the importance of the Battle of Buxar; the subsequent development of Awadh; and the women (begums) and the royal eunuchs who played a pivotal role in the evolution of this State.

"I like getting into the depth of the matter. I like to speak of art and food and length. I also try to write about the flowers that bloomed in the gardens then. They were marigolds, by the way. I like to get granular with my writing," the author said.

Ms. Mukhoty said that although the French were not politically important after having lost the Seven-Years War fought between them and the English between 1756 and 1763, they continued to leave an impact on Awadh.

She added that history often tends to be written through the lens of war, conquests and territorial expansion but added that women are often in the margins and sometimes, the centre stage, adding to cultural wealth and documentation.

Ms. Mukhoty said that her books are often Trojan horses. They are full of feminist truths that she hopes readers will be capable of uncovering over time. "I try to include multiple points of view and leave it to the reader to judge," she said.

Forgotten history: an invasion that never happened, but led to exodus

Mukund Padmanabhan's *The Great Flap of 1942* tells the story of how the British Raj panicked in anticipation of a Japanese invasion in 1942 which resulted in a fear-induced exodus; the writer in a conversation with Manu Pillai talks about the largely undocumented story and its impact

Gowri S.
CHENNAI

An exodus triggered by an unreal fear. A "non-event" that led to many bizarre historical events. A rare incident that went largely undocumented. Mukund Padmanabhan's book *The Great Flap of 1942* is all this and more.

Mr. Padmanabhan, author and former Editor of *The Hindu*, in an engaging conversation with historian Manu Pillai at the Lit for Life on Sunday, elaborated on a latent piece of history that caught his fascination so much that he decided to write a book about it titled the same.

"What exactly was this non-event that actually caused so many events to take place, after," asked Mr. Pillai in an attempt to set context to the conversation that hinged on how the British Raj panicked simply over the anticipation of a Japanese invasion in 1942.

Looking back: Author Mukund Padmanabhan (right) in a conversation with historian Manu Pillai at the Lit for Life event on Sunday. R. RAGU

"When the Japanese came close, they sent aircraft carriers to the Indian Ocean, they bombed Visakhapatnam and Kakinada but they never had any intention of invading India. In the book I argue that the British took measures that actually stoked a great sense of panic and people fled from all over the country. I don't think many people know that almost 90% of Madras could have fled. The story was also largely undocumented," Mr. Padmanabhan said. This fear, he believes, shaped the course of the nationalist movement and the author called for the examination of some of the major events of 1942 – the Cripps Mission and Gandhiji's call for the Quit India Movement – in the context of this fear.

'Different impact'

"Exodus has its own dynamic. The more people leave, the more leave," he said. "Everyone's lives changed. The flap impacted people in different ways. But what fascinated me was why did so many people flee so many parts of India, like coastal Odisha, coastal Tamil Nadu... for an invasion that was never even planned," added Mr. Padmanabhan, whose focus remained the dystopian futility of such an event in history.

Why does such stories exist only in families, within their silences and memories, asked Mr. Pillai. One of the reasons is that, traditionally, historians have focused on the Freedom Movement, Mr. Padmanabhan said. "This story slipped between the cracks. No one was paying attention to this and finally it was a non-event. The other thing is that – if 75% to 90% of Madras was evacuated, you would imagine that the newspapers of the time would have photographs or long reports. But there was very little human interest stories at the time," he said. Communication with the Governors and private diaries of bureaucrats at the time, served as references.

The British treated this in a very "cynical and cold" way, he added. For them, the exodus also was convenient in having less people to manage in the event of a Japanese invasion.

'While crime doesn't pay, crime fiction is a whole different story'

Madhuvanti S. Krishnan
CHENNAI

How are Kamal Haasan and Hussain Zaidi connected? Who really is Dawood Ibrahim – a polished, chaste, Urdu-speaking individual, or a *tapori* from the Mumbai underworld? What are the intricacies behind crafting bestseller crime stories?

These and several other intriguing aspects of the world of crime fiction were discussed by authors Ashwin Sanghi and Hussain Zaidi. They were in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports editor, *The Hindu*, on Sunday.

Mr. Sanghi shed light on how he tended to delve into areas which constitute the what-ifs in a story and elaborated on how there were two words which he focused on – history and myth. "When I do myth plus history, in my mind, it triggers a mystery. It is a simple formula. But as long as I stay within that formula, I approach each of those subjects with an ingrained sense of respect rather than sensationalism – one's writing must not trigger someone," he said.

Crafting a crime: Writers Ashwin Sanghi and Hussain Zaidi speaking to K.C. Vijaya Kumar on Sunday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Crime doesn't pay, but crime fiction is a whole different story, he says.

Mr. Sanghi spoke about how his foray into crime writing was not with his latest book *Razor Sharp: A Kutta Kadam Thriller*, but *Private India* which he co-authored with James Patterson. He admitted that it was indeed a lucrative genre to write about as James Patterson typically released between seven to eight crime novels a year.

While several writers use their imagination to shell out a good piece of fiction, Mr. Zaidi explained how his fiction was largely rooted in facts.

"I have penned four fiction stories so far, and most of them have been derived or inspired by facts. For instance, parts of my latest book, *The Black Orphan*, are based on facts – the mysterious death of six nuclear scientists in Mumbai who were either found dead, had committed suicide, or had met with an accident, and a government that was utterly unconcerned about them. I have woven into story form this incident, coupled with other real instances. Essentially, 75% of what is in the story has really taken place, while 25% of it is my imagination," he said.

An ode to Ebrahim Alkazi, visionary of modern theatre

Life of a legend: Theatre director Amal Allana and Ritu Menon speaking at the Lit for Life event on Sunday. R. RAGU

Soma Basu
CHENNAI

Theatre director Amal Allana, who recently released a riveting biography of her father *Ebrahim Alkazi: Holding Time Captive* gave a racy account of Alkazi's revolutionary contributions to arts and culture in the creative landscape that was emerging in pre-Independence India into the later decades.

She said the title of her book was apt as she found the words scribbled by her father in his notes that read, "I wish I could live longer to hold time captive."

A six-minute documentary on Alkazi charting the journey of his quest for a liberal approach to the arts in the Indian subcontinent preceded Ms. Allana's conversation with Ritu Menon at *The Hindu* Lit for Life session on Sunday.

Setting the narrative in Bombay of the 1940s when Alkazi came as the son of a migrant trader from Saudi Arabia, Ms. Allana spoke about how his innovative ideas from the young age of 22 coupled with daring new experimental projects transformed the theatre movements pan-India and later led to the establishment of the National School of Drama in Delhi in the 1960s. It was the time when creative history was under-researched and Alkazi strode the stage with arrogance, resoluteness, and brilliance.

A personal perspective

As the daughter, Ms. Allana brought a personal perspective to the intangible landscape of Alkazi's passions as she step-by-step unfolded the layers of his cultural, artistic and nationalistic identity. "His pedagogical skills took form as a response to the social and political life. He introduced language in theatre and nationalised it," she said. Not only was Alkazi interested in training a body of thinking actors but he also trained audiences to appreciate modernity in theatre, she said.

Imprint: a unique display of book and paper projects

Gowri S.
CHENNAI

From quirky clip boards to fraying sketchbooks and intricate sculptures, paper, in its many forms, was spread over the Lady Andal School campus at Lit for Life event.

Titled Imprint, the display was largely categorised into book and paper projects and was co-curated by Sharan Apparao and Shijo Jacob.

The display explored the medium of paper and how artists interpret it in their practice. From Priya Sundaravalli's tiny ceramic plates on a clipboard, to Jenny Pinto's amalgamation of wood and paper into sculptures, the display was a celebration of a medium with interesting structural possibilities.

Artists R.M. Palaniappan's iconic linear abstracts and Yuvan Bothysathuvar's optical illusion canvases, all made for an interesting show.

interesting show: A visitor taking pictures at the Imprint exhibition at the event in Chennai on Saturday. M. SRINATH

Janaki Lele's fine paper cut artworks, sometimes set against coloured backdrops, were testament to the versatility of the medium. George K.'s life-size paper sculptures on the other hand drew visitors in for a quick glance. Tanjima Kar Sekh's usage of Islamic calligraphy and Mughal motifs also were an instant draw.

Rare sketchbooks of artists were also at the exhibition for visitors to sift through. Each sketchbook was a window into the creative process of an artist – some carried splotches of ink, while some others had lines and scribbles that perhaps charted the birth of an idea.

A curtain of paper strips, lit from within and installed on the premises, also became a crowd-favourite 'selfie point'.

"It's all about ideas at the end of it. With paper being such an integral part of our literature and media, I thought using paper here made sense," said Sharan Apparao.

From Page One

Poor demand hits Q3 private investments

Total private sector projects slipped sharply from 1,253 in Q2 to 1,061 in Q3. Private investors' share in new investment projects dropped to 62.2% in Q3 from 66.2% in Q2 New investments by foreign players rose 44.2% sequentially, albeit from a low base, to ₹1.02 lakh crore. This spike was largely thanks to a single ₹70,000 crore steel project announced by Arcelor Mittal Nippon.

"The slowdown in domestic private investments during the third quarter of FY2025 reflects the apprehensions of India Inc. over rising input costs, driven by high inflation and ongoing geopolitical uncertainties," Shashikant Hegde, director and CEO of Projects Today, told *The Hindu*.

He added that weak corporate results and flagging urban demand in Q2 may have also dimmed investor appetite. India's GDP growth had slowed to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in Q2.

"The outlook for 2025-2026 remains optimistic, as favourable economic conditions like easing inflation, and the execution of policy interventions to spur consumption and growth, are expected to stimulate private investment activity," Mr. Hegde reckoned.

New power projects

At almost ₹2.28 lakh crore, new investments by States surpassed the Centre's ₹2.05 lakh crore announcements in Q3, and accounted for almost 20% of all new outlays. In Q2, the value of new projects announced by the Centre was higher than the States.

Mining, irrigation, and pharma, as well as the employment-intensive construction and automobile sectors clocked deep contractions in fresh outlays relative to Q2. Infrastructure investments were only fractionally higher by 0.8% at ₹4.25 lakh crore, but new electricity projects grew a sharper 21.9% to ₹4.5 lakh crore to account for the largest share of 39.3% in new investments through Q3.

"Such investments, particularly in transport and social infrastructure, are essential for sustaining the overall economic momentum, as they not only lay the groundwork for long term growth but also complement private sector initiatives by improving the business environment and reducing operational bottlenecks," Mr. Hegde explained.

There was a significant shuffling among States that accounted for the top shares of new investment projects. Rajasthan emerged as a surprise leader, with fresh project outlays in the State – by both public and private investors – rising almost three times over Q2 to about ₹2.25 lakh crore in Q3.

Maharashtra and Gujarat, which were the top two States in Q2, moved one rank lower as a consequence, while Tamil Nadu was edged out of the top 10 States, after being the third-ranked State in terms of investment plans in Q2. In Q3, new projects in Tamil Nadu amounted to just ₹18,066 crore, 60.8% below its Q2 tally of ₹46,119 crore.

Diversity dividend and BJP's hat-trick lite

Mr. Sardesai said, "In the past 10 to 15 years we have seen changes in terms of the emergence of the BJP as the dominant party of this country, replacing the old Congress and challenging the Nehruvian consensus that dominated Indian politics for about 60 years after Independence. The BJP is not just another political party. It is a party that seeks to conquer India. The emergence of a larger-than-life personality cult is also another feature of politics in the last decade and a half."

On the 2024 polls, Mr. Ram said there were some smaller surprises within the non-surprise. "The exit polls were completely off, almost without exception. Rajdeep, in his book, mentions that only Yogendra Yadav got it spot on. What I want to highlight is that several journalists who went to the field were very clear that in no way that the BJP as a single party was going to exceed between 240 and 250 seats. This was not based on some speculation, but on solid information, particularly from the Hindi-speaking States."

He said not many expected 40 out of 40 seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for the INDIA bloc. But the leaders of the ruling DMK-led alliance were absolutely clear that they would not lose a single seat. "At the same time, how did Odisha and Madhya Pradesh happen? Why was there a difference between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan? These were surprises within non-surprises. But what it brings out is diversity and pluralism are the foundation of electoral democracy."

Speaking about the role of media, Mr. Ram said the pandemic demonstrated that people trusted professional media. Surveys had shown all over the world that people relied on professional media rather than social media. That was the major victory and strength of the professional media because of their credibility and trustworthiness.

Jayanthi Natarajan, former Union Minister, said, "The voters of Tamil Nadu always made their voice heard, no matter what the external noise was. In 1980, there were elections held simultaneously to the State Assembly as well as Parliament. The Congress and the DMK went into an alliance. It was a political alliance against MGR [M.G. Ramachandran], whose government had been dismissed by the Centre. The voters decisively rejected the DMK-Congress combine for the Assembly and voted for MGR as Chief Minister, and decisively rejected MGR for Parliament, and voted for the DMK-Congress combine. The women of Tamil Nadu were always very clear about what they wanted. The women of India have a voice now and they want to vote for something more than a mere empty construct of a political narrative."

Cylinder blast triggers fire at Maha Kumbh, 1 injured

The fire was contained after a joint effort by the NDRF and local administration teams; Prime Minister Narendra Modi dials U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to enquire about the situation

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A fire broke out at the Maha Kumbh campsite in Prayagraj due to a cylinder blast on Sunday. Six tents and 40 mud houses were engulfed in the flames. One person was injured while trying to escape from the spot, officials said.

Several fire tenders were rushed to the area to control the blaze. It was contained after a joint effort by the National Disaster Response Force and local administration teams.

"Two or three cylinders exploded in Sector 19 of the Maha Kumbh Mela, causing a massive fire in the camps. The fire has been controlled... An investigation will be conducted," Bhanu Bhaskar, Additional Director-General of Police, Prayagraj, said.

"Today at 4.30 p.m., we received information about fire in Gita Press [camp] of Kumbh Kshetra Sector 19. Fire brigade and police team reached the spot. Along with Gita Press, information about fire spreading in the tent of 10 Prayagwal was also received, which was extinguished. The situation is normal, " Ravindra Kumar Mandar, District Magistrate, Prayagraj, said in a video statement.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to rush to the spot and expedite relief work. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Mr. Adityanath and enquired about the situation. "The situation is under control," read a statement from the State government.

Reduced to ash: Smoke rising from a fire at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Sunday. AP

Devotees being forced to walk miles: Akhilesh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Devotees are forced to walk miles to reach the Maha Kumbh as the roads are closed for the movement of VVIP guests, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said on Sunday, accusing the BJP government of Uttar Pradesh of harming elderly, children and women pilgrims for the sake of "special guests".

" There is a jam-like situation everywhere. The jam should be cleared immediately. No one should be more important than a true devotee," Mr. Yadav said in a post on X.

Saif knife attack case: police arrest suspect, get five-day custody

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Sunday arrested a man from Thane in connection with the knife attack on actor Saif Ali Khan.

The police said the suspect, Shariful Islam Shehzada, was a Bangladeshi national who had entered India illegally. He had allegedly broken into Mr. Khan's home on Thursday and attacked him and his staff during a burglary attempt.

A Mumbai court remanded Shariful in police custody till January 24 after observing that the police's contention of an "international conspiracy" cannot be ruled out. The police told the court that the alleged attacker was a Bangladeshi and there was need to probe the motive behind his act.

The breakthrough came in the early hours of Sunday when the police traced Shariful to a labour camp in a forested area in Thane based on the information provided by a labour contractor. Preliminary investigation suggested that the man was unaware that he had entered a film star's house, and his intention was theft, a senior police officer said.

The police taking the accused to a hospital for medical examination. PTI

The 31-year-old accused had been residing in and around Mumbai for the past five months and did not have any valid proof of Indian residence, the police said. He had changed his name to Vijay Das upon entering India and was allegedly working in a housekeeping agency.

The police said Shariful climbed the stairs to the seventh or eighth floor of the building where Mr. Khan lives. "He entered the duct area, climbed to the 12th floor using a pipe and entered the actor's flat through a bathroom window. He then came out from the bathroom, where the actor's staff spotted him, leading to the chain of events that culminated in the knife attack," an officer said.

G.P. Singh appointed chief of Central Reserve Police Force

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Assam police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), a government order said.

Mr. Singh is a 1991-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

G.P. Singh

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Mr. Singh's appointment as the CRPF D-G till the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027, the January 18 order said.

The CRPF is among the largest Central armed police forces (CAPF) in the country.

Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar has been holding officiating charge of the force after the retirement of Anish Dayal Singh on December 31.

Man detained in Chhattisgarh in actor attack case released

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

"I am not the culprit, boss... I am going home," replied Akash Kanojiya to a volley of questions directed at him and a Mumbai Police team escorting him in Chhattisgarh's Durg on Sunday.

Mr. Kanojiya, 31, was identified as a "suspect" by the Railway Protection Force in the Saif Ali Khan stabbing case on Saturday, hours before the Mumbai Police made an arrest in the case.

Even as a police officer said Mr. Kanojiya was "just a suspect" and was released after inquiry, journalists raised questions about the 'identification' exercise.

"There was no mistake...," said a member of the police team, in response to a question. "You people [journalists] made it go viral. We will do our authentic job. If we feel someone is a suspect, we will question him. There wasn't just one team, teams were sent across India," he said, adding that Mr. Kanojiya would be dropped at the railway station and was free to go wherever he wished.

Centre must eliminate 'tax terrorism', says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Issuing a prescription for the Narendra Modi-led government ahead of the Union Budget, the Congress on Sunday said that "raid raj and tax terrorism" that had converted "ease of doing business" to "unease" should be eliminated.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a statement, said that action should be taken to protect Indian manufacturing jobs, and decisive steps needed to be taken to shore up wages and purchasing power, which in turn would incentivise Indian businesses to invest.

"A byzantine, punitive, and arbitrary tax regime covering both GST and income tax – which amounts to sheer Tax Terrorism – is now the greatest threat to India's prosperity and has contributed to an 'unease of doing business'," Mr. Ramesh said. "This sluggish investment has been accompanied by a mass exodus of high-net-worth individuals. More than 17.5 lakh Indians have acquired the citizenship of another country over the past decade. An estimated 21,300 dollar millionaires left India between 2022 and 2025," he said.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise and group company of IndianOil)
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Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2024	30.09.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2024	31.12.2024	30.09.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2024
		Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	15687.64	14447.53	20456.41	50500.45	58459.06	79285.50	15687.64	14429.11	20456.42	50482.20	58456.57	79283.01
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	14.12	(857.37)	481.05	(373.61)	2816.35	3659.87	24.44	(861.57)	486.34	(353.01)	2834.67	3693.69
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	14.12	(857.37)	481.05	(373.61)	2816.35	3659.87	24.44	(861.57)	486.34	(353.01)	2834.67	3693.69
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	10.46	(629.49)	359.99	(276.43)	2098.87	2711.25	20.78	(633.69)	365.28	(255.83)	2117.19	2745.07
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	11.75	(635.38)	359.99	(282.70)	2098.87	2714.06	22.07	(639.58)	365.28	(262.10)	2117.19	2747.90
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				7092.30	7578.82	8194.01				7340.87	7791.26	8421.97
8.	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04	250.04
9.	Networth				7491.25	7977.77	8592.96				7739.82	8190.21	8820.92
10.	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				810.00	1585.00	1585.00				810.00	1585.00	1585.00
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 {2024:50,00,00,000} Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.76	0.81	0.60	0.76	0.60	0.32	0.74	0.79	0.58	0.74	0.58	0.31
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)												
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	0.70	(42.27)	24.17	(18.56)	140.95	182.07	1.40	(42.56)	24.53	(17.18)	142.18	184.34
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	0.70	(42.27)	24.17	(18.56)	140.95	182.07	1.40	(42.56)	24.53	(17.18)	142.18	184.34
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.50	(4.42)	8.74	0.35	11.49	10.79	2.61	(4.47)	8.83	0.37	11.57	10.89
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	3.11	(12.57)	13.65	1.47	19.98	20.10	3.24	(12.65)	13.76	1.58	20.09	20.26

Note:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in
2 For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) and can be acessed on www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rohit Kumar Agrawala
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10048961

Place : New Delhi
Date : January 18, 2025

INBRIEF

Rahul booked for 'provoking rebellion against Indian state'

An FIR was registered against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Guwahati for allegedly provoking rebellion against the Indian state. Monjit Chetia, an advocate, lodged a complaint with the Panbazar police station citing Mr. Gandhi's reported statement: "The BJP and RSS have captured every institution, and we are now fighting the BJP, RSS, and the Indian state itself."

Militants, security personnel exchange fire in Baramulla

Firing erupted between security forces and hiding militants in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Sunday evening during a search-and-cordon operation. "During a search-and-cordon operation launched by police and security forces at Sopore (Baramulla district), a hideout was busted. Fire was observed from inside. The area was cordoned off," a police spokesperson said.

3 dead, 4 missing as boat capsizes in Ganga in Bihar

Three people were killed and four went missing after a boat capsized in the Ganga in Bihar's Katihar district on Sunday, officials said. The boat, with 17 people on board, capsized near Golaghat, they said. Ten people have been rescued so far, officials said. "The rescue operation is still under way for the four missing persons. An investigation has been ordered," District Magistrate Manesh Kumar Meena said. PTI

India's democracy has proven doubters wrong, says Modi

PM calls Maha Kumbh a celebration of 'unity in diversity', urges people to take inspiration from Indian traditions in his first *Mann Ki Baat* of 2025

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In his first *Mann Ki Baat* of 2025 on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people on the Indian Constitution completing 75 years, and said everyone has to work towards building an India that even the makers of the Constitution would be proud of.

Mr. Modi said January 25 is celebrated as National Voters' Day as the Election Commission of India was established on this date. Lauding the work of the poll panel, he said when the first elections were held in the country in 1951-52, some were doubtful whether the country's democracy would survive. "But our democracy proved all the apprehensions wrong – after all, India is the Mother of Democracy," he said.

Speaking on the ongoing Maha Kumbh festival, he said it celebrates "unity in diversity". "People from all over India and the world congregate on the sands of the Sangam. There is no discrimination, no casteism anywhere in this tradition which has been going on for thousands of years... People from the south, from the east and west of India arrive here. In the Kumbh, the rich and the poor come together as one," he said, adding that the event also tells how traditions bind the whole of India together. He said there are many temples across India, such as the shrines in Kumbakonam and Tirucherai, whose traditions are connected with the Kumbh. "These festivals connect the people of India with the Indian traditions, just as our scriptures emphasise on Dharma, *Artha*, *Kama*, *Moksha* (righteousness, prosperity, love, and self-realisation)," he said.

All ears: Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini listens to the Prime Minister's *Mann Ki Baat* at the BJP office in Kaithal on Sunday. ANI

On the first anniversary of the *Pran Pratishtha Parv* in Ayodhya, which fell on January 11, he said lakhs of devotees had a darshan of Ram Lalla. "While walking on the path of development, we have to preserve our heritage and move forward taking inspiration from that," he said.

Speaking about man-animal conflicts, he said villagers in Naugaon in Assam had planted napier grass on about 800 bighas of barren land. "Elephants like this grass very much. The result was that instances of elephants straying into fields reduced. This is a matter of great relief for thousands of villagers. This effort of theirs has been liked by the elephants as well," he said.

Drive to seal rat-hole coal mines begins in Assam's Dima Hasao

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The police and local authorities in Assam's Dima Hasao district have initiated a drive to seal all the rat- hole mines and seize equipment at these sites.

The drive is in connection with the flooding of a 90-metre-deep rat-hole coal mine on January 6, trapping nine miners. The bodies of four miners were retrieved by January 10, but five others remain untraced.

A few days ago, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that about 220 rat-hole mines had been detected in the district's Umrangso area bordering Meghalaya. Many of these were in operation despite bans by the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court almost a decade ago.

"We have begun the process of sealing all rat-hole mines on the directions of the Director-General of Police," Dima Hasao's Superintendent of Police Mayank Kumar said.

"We have begun by restricting access to such mines, and dismantling and seizing the equipment at their sites," he said, adding that 11 persons had been arrested in connection with the January 6 mishap.

Officials said the hopes of rescuing the five miners still trapped in the flooded mine are dim. They said the ill-fated mine, believed to be interlinked underground with three abandoned mines nearby, still has more than 10 crore litres of water.

Rescue work under way at a mine on January 8 where five miners remain untraced. PTI

Personnel of multiple agencies have been pumping water out from these mines continuously since January 7. Earlier, the Chief Minister had said it might take up to 60 days to suck the water out of the mines.

13 mines sealed

Officials in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district sealed 13 illegal rat-hole mines in the Margherita area adjoining Arunachal Pradesh. The operation was carried out jointly with Coal India Limited.

A magistrate in the district said the exercise to seal the 13 mines identified so far was begun on Saturday. Four workers were arrested and an excavator and other equipment seized.

'India to work with EU on developing modern tech'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that India will work with the European Union to develop cutting-edge technologies and secure critical raw material supply chains to strengthen economic ties.

These issues were discussed during a meeting between Mr. Goyal and Maros Sefcovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security in Brussels on January 18-19.

The two leaders also agreed to build a commercially meaningful trade agenda, and work towards a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The Commerce and Industry Ministry in a statement on Sunday said that India would build a commercially meaningful, fair and equitable trade agenda with the EU, addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers through simplification, and cost competitiveness for the benefit of businesses from both sides.

"India would work together with the EU for developing cutting edge technologies, secure critical raw material supply chains and build resilient supply chains – reducing dependencies on non-market economies and developing closer economic ties between India and the EU," the Ministry said.

Nine Navies hold joint drills in strategic straits between Indian Ocean and the Pacific

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Navies of nine Indo-Pacific countries, including India, are taking part in a multilateral exercise, La Perouse, hosted by France in the strategic straits of Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok, between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

The Indian Navy has deployed its guided-missile destroyer *INS Mumbai* for the exercise scheduled from January 16 to 24 and led by the French Carrier Strike Group (CSG) headed by the carrier *Charles de Gaulle*.

The three straits are critical choke points as these provide entry and exit into the Indian Ocean Region. With forays by the Chinese Navy in the region rising, the straits are under increased focus.

Maritime safety

"Strengthening maritime safety will be at the core of this exercise, with the development of interoperability and the ability to act collectively in the event of a maritime crisis, which will contribute to it," the French Embassy in India said in a statement.

On the location of the exercise, it noted that these straits, mainstays of global maritime trade, are subject to numerous human-induced risks such as maritime accidents and environmental hazards, illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and natural risks such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the U.K., and the U.S. are part of the exercise.

In an important sign of strengthening interoperability, the statement said, "During this exercise, all navies will train in the use of IORIS, a communication and coordination system dedicated to the exchange of information, documents in order to effectively and collectively face a maritime crisis in a synchronized manner."

Modi-Trump meet on Jaishankar's 5-point agenda

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Ahead of his visit to Washington, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, which he will attend, could have "profound consequences for the global order", spelling out some of the challenges and opportunities India could face over the next four years.

"Today, we may well be on the cusp of a new era," Mr. Jaishankar said at a lecture in Mumbai on Saturday. "One where the United States departs from an established tradition of foreign policy and focuses on its own interests, rather than in shaping the world itself... Where the focus is more on the compulsions of competition rather than on observance of regimes," he said, indicating that the incoming Trump administration would pose the biggest challenge globally to the prevailing rules-based order, which could affect India on trade and immigration issues in particular.

As a result, Mr. Jaishankar's five-point agenda during the Washington trip, his third visit to the U.S. in the past six months, will be to set the course for an intense engagement with the Trump administration, beginning with an early meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump. That could come as early as next month, as Mr. Modi will travel to Paris for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit at the Grand Palais, where Mr. Trump has been invited, or subsequently on a visit by Mr. Modi to the U.S. in the next few months.

S. Jaishankar

The next agenda point for Mr. Jaishankar is to set a date for the Quad summit in India later this year.

"The Quad Foreign Ministers (Australia, India, Japan) are expected to be in Washington, D.C. for the inaugural ceremony of President Trump," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on Friday. On Saturday, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Mr. Trump had told advisers that he wanted to travel to China early in his tenure, and was also considering a visit to India.

Ahead of such a visit, all eyes will be on who Mr. Trump appoints as his Ambassador to India, as Eric Garcetti, a political appointee during the Biden administration, will step down on Tuesday.

In contrast to his strong rhetoric against China during his campaign, and his nomination of a number of China-hawks to his Cabinet, Mr. Trump has made a number of overtures to Chinese President Xi Jinping in recent weeks, including inviting him to the inauguration, and speaking to him over the telephone on Friday in what he called a "very good" call for China and the U.S.

In addition, Mr. Trump's plans to begin his tenure with a series of 'Executive Orders', including ordering mass deportations and raids on "day one" as outlooked by his 'border Czar' Tom Homan, will be watched closely during Mr. Jaishankar's visit. According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report released in December, there are about 17,940 Indian nationals out of a total of 1.4 million on the "final removal orders" list, and 2,647 Indians are amongst those immigrants already in detention centres, making them the fourth-largest group by nationality, following Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala.

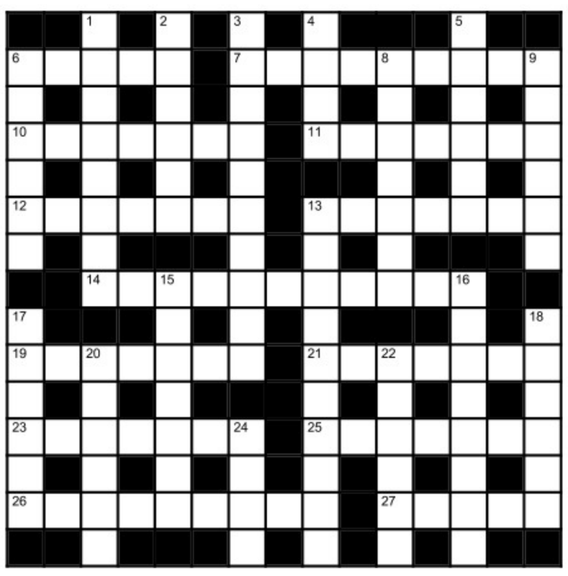
Finally, the Jaishankar delegation's meetings with Trump advisers, including billionaire Elon Musk, will be watched for announcements on their engagement with India.

TH CROSSWORD + 14386

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Appreciate 5A, not the first clue! (5)
7 Apostle had good people with bit of theological understanding (9)
10 Oracular and keen on exercises involving crosswords mainly! (7)
11 Domestic broadcast carries trivia every now and then (7)
12 Check what Ram mellowingly bears (7)
13 When jury is not able to reach a conclusion, one is thrown to the wind! (7)
14 It is used to tie basic dental fitting (7,4)
19 Book our boxes, prepare one for bedroom (7)
21 Our land's rough and rugged (7)
23 Spot over large empty cloth (7)
25 Keeps an eye on alien thought process (7)
26 Bend for victory! Rally in response! (9)
27 Five things like basil, not hard to cultivate, chew and digest, say (5)

Down

1 Parents liaise, afterwards youngsters delightfully assemble to enjoy basically (4,4)
2 Upset about men's partitioning of body (6)
3 One who comes for an animal husbandry tool (10)
4 Does sad ballads (4)
5 Darn! A lost harvest just after killing of farmers' leader! (6)
6 Empty Lift (6)
8 Aura is energy in motion, covers large part of our world! (7)
9 Gossip or anecdote about Rechabite (6)
13 Take time, test one, say for measure of speed (4,6)
15 John, our ancestor preserved lost works (7)
16 Refused a contract with American state? Yes! Unreal! (8)
17 One who ill-treats a black client? (6)
18 Free time? One stuffs marijuana mostly! (6)
20 Better cultivate tulip with minimum fertilisers (6)
22 Study southern part of a state carved out of Serbia from the beginning (2,4)
24 Sounds like healthy praise (4)

SUDOKU

	4	9		2	8			5
	2					6		8
				6			4	2
		3	1					
				8				
					2	7		
2	8			1				
7		4					3	
5			8	7		4	2	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

W	A	■	A	■	T	■	A	U	■	O	■	I		
E	M	P	E	R	O	R	■	P	E	N	G	U	I	N
B	■	S	■	T	■	E	■	A	■	S	■	T	■	T
S	H	E	L	F	■	E	U	R	O	P	H	O	B	E
I	■	■	■	U	■	T	■	T	■	O	■	F	■	G
T	U	B	U	L	A	R	■	■	S	I	M	P	L	E
E	■	R	■	■	■	U	■	M	■	L	■	L	■	R
■	C	A	R	B	O	N	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	■
I	■	H	■	R	■	K	■	C	■	■	■	C	■	T
S	U	M	M	E	R	■	■	■	H	E	I	R	E	S	S
O	■	A	■	A	■	R	■	A	■	N	■	■	■	H
T	O	N	E	D	D	O	W	N	■	■	T	E	M	P	I
O	■	I	■	B	■	U	■	I	■	I	■	E	■	R
P	A	S	S	I	N	G	■	C	O	M	M	E	N	T
E	■	M	■	N	■	H	■	S	■	E	■	K	■	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	4	1	8	6	3	9	7
7	1	6	3	4	9	8	2	5
8	3	9	2	7	5	6	4	1
3	4	5	9	1	2	7	6	8
1	7	8	6	3	4	9	5	2
9	6	2	8	5	7	1	3	4
2	9	1	4	6	8	5	7	3
6	5	3	7	2	1	4	8	9
4	8	7	5	9	3	2	1	6

FAITH

Importance of spouse

Lord Narayana takes many avataras and the aim of every avatara is to save sadhus. Ramanujacharya says that only those who want to be always with the Lord can be referred to as sadhus. To these sadhus, Lord Narayana gives Himself. That is what is meant by protecting them and establishing dharma, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. Rama is the embodiment of dharma – Ramo Vigrahavan Dharmah. So when He comes to the world for the sake of the sadhus, it is as if dharma itself is being established in the world. This is what is meant by dharma samsthapana, which is spoken of in the Bhagavad Gita. When the Lord took the Rama avatara, He married Sita, and there is a tattva behind this. Of the four ashramas, only in the brahmacharya ashrama and the sanyasa ashrama a man is without a wife. When he leaves grihastha ashrama and retires for vanaprastha ashrama, he has to take his wife with him. He cannot proceed alone.

In temples, during the flag hoisting ceremony of utsavas, there is a rule about which priest can hoist the flag. An unmarried man, a widower or a man separated from his wife cannot perform the dwajarohana. Sastras forbid a man from performing certain rites without his wife. He cannot do agnihotra without his wife. We see the importance of a wife in the Ramayana. When Lord Rama wants to perform asvamedha yaga, the sages tell Him that since Sita is not with Him, He cannot perform the yaga. They suggest a way out. He should make a statue of Sita, which is as tall as Sita and has the same build as Sita. Lord Rama is to see the statue as Sita Herself. Rama makes such a statue, and only then He is allowed to perform the yaga.

Year-end tax ideas

TAXTIME

Shefali Mundra

Here's a guide to some of the most effective tax-saving strategies you can adopt before this financial year ends.

Tax-loss harvesting
This strategy is crucial for investors holding stocks or mutual funds (MFs) that underperformed. By selling these at loss, you can offset the capital gains on other investments, reducing your overall tax liability. In India, you can set off capital losses against capital gains – short-term losses can be set off against both short and long-term gains (STCG/LTCG), while long-term losses are restricted to being set off against long-term gains only. Let's understand with an example:

Saumya has invested in stocks and MFs. At the end of the financial year, her portfolio has STCG ₹5,00,000 and LTCG at 10,00,000. So, the total tax liability is ₹2,09,375.(See Table 1)

However, worried about certain underperforming stocks, she decided to sell them and booked a short-term loss of ₹1,50,000. She took advantage of tax loss harvesting and reduced the overall tax liability for the year.

The total tax liability is ₹1,79,375 (See table 2). The total tax liability was reduced by ₹30,000 (₹2,09,375 - ₹1,79,375).

Set-off of capital gains
The Income Tax Act allows the setting off losses against gains from capital assets, which can be a powerful way to cut taxable income. Short-term capital loss can be adjusted against both short-term and long-term capital gains while long-term capital loss can be only adjusted against the long-term capital gains. Planning sale of assets to align with this can maximise your tax benefits, especially if you strategically realise losses in the same year as gains. Capital losses can be carried forward for eight assessment years.

Capital gains account scheme
If you sell a property and plan to reinvest the proceeds into another property or in specified assets, you can defer paying capital gains tax by depositing the proceeds in a capital gains account under the Capital Gains Account Scheme in any public sector bank. This must be done before the due date of filing Income Tax returns and the funds must be used to buy or construct a new property within the specified time frames.

Maximising deductions
Under Sec 80C you can claim deductions up to ₹1.5 lakh for investments in ELSS, PPF, NSC, life insurance premiums and repayment of principal on home loans. Under Section 80D, premiums for medical insurance can be deducted up to ₹25,000, which rises to ₹50,000 for senior citizens. Under Sec 80G, contributions to charitable organisations can aid tax deductions, of up to 50%/100% depending on the eligibility of charitable organisation.

Advance tax payments
As per Indian tax laws, if estimated tax liability for a year crosses ₹10,000, you must pay advance tax. This is done in four instalments over the year (15th June, 15th September, 15th December and 15th March). Ensuring the payments are made on time on anticipated capital gains income can help avoid interest penalties under Sec 234B and 234C of the Income Tax Act. With the fiscal year-end approaching, now is the time to review your financial portfolio and make smart moves to minimise tax liability. Consulting a tax advisor to tailor the strategies to your personal financial situation is recommended.

(The author is a tax expert with ClearTax)

Table 1

Type of Gains	Applicable Tax	Total Tax Liability
STCG	₹5,00,000*20%	₹1,00,000
LTCG	(₹10 lakh-₹1.25 lakh)*12.5%	₹1,09,375
Total Tax Liability		₹2,09,375

Table 2

Type of Gains	Applicable Tax	Total Tax Liability
STCG	(₹5 lakh-₹1.5 lakh)*20%	₹70,000
LTCG	(₹10 lakh-₹1.25 lakh)*12.5%	₹1,09,375
Total Tax Liability		₹1,79,375

Cut the knot: To further reduce their repayment burden, borrowers can also opt for longer tenures while availing new loans. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

How to plot an escape from a debt trap

To emerge unscathed, stressed borrowers must first take clear stock of the situation and embrace some financial discipline; an honest reassessment of one's lifestyle may also be warranted

DANGER LURKS

Naveen Kukreja

As per Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest Financial Stability Report, about 60% of borrowers who availed personal loans in the second quarter of 2024-25 had more than three existing loans at the time of loan origination. It pointed towards rising delinquencies in the unsecured segment, including credit cards' outstanding dues, and elevated slippages of loans with repayment overdue of 60-89 days to the non-performing asset (NPA) label.

While India's household debt ratio of 42.9% is still relatively lower than other emerging market economies, increased slippages and rising delinquencies (in the unsecured segment) may point towards increasing incidence of debt trap, especially among the near-prime and sub-prime borrowers.

> Increased slippages and rising delinquencies may point towards increasing incidence of debt trap, especially among the near-prime and sub-prime borrowers

> The RBI has pointed to rising delinquencies in the unsecured loan segment, including credit card outstandings and elevated slippages in such loans to NPA status

Here, I will present a step-by-step money-management strategy for borrowers to come out of the debt trap.

Review your finances
The first step towards getting out of a debt trap is to assess your current finances. Start the process by listing usual expenses like daily household expenses, insurance premia, school fee, medical bills, utility bills, etc. This will help you to identify avoidable expenses for more savings.

Then, list existing loans and credit card debt along with interest rates and EMIs. This will help identify costlier credit facilities.

Finally, categorise existing investments on the basis of their linked financial goals (and the importance) and the rate of returns.

It will allow you to identify the investments that can be redeemed for making quicker repayments. For example, while investments linked to short term unavoidable financial goals or emergency fund should not be redeemed, investments set aside for discretionary spending can be used for debt reduction.

Seek soft loans
After evaluating the financial situation, reach out to family members, friends or close ones for soft loans as these can help in reducing your debt burden at nil or very low interest cost.

Low-yield investments
The interest rates of most credit facilities are higher than the rates or returns offered by fixed income products like savings accounts, fixed deposits and most debt fund categories. For example, home loan interest rates, usually the lowest among retail loan categories, are now offered from 8.30% p.a., the highest FD slab rates offered by public sector banks and major private sector banks range between 7-8% p.a. Thus, those under debt burden can redeem low-yield investments, except those linked to crucial short-term financial goals, to repay high-cost debts.

Prioritise prepayments
It's time to repay/prepay existing debt, starting with the ones with the highest interest rates. For example, if you have unpaid credit card dues and a personal loan, you should first start with credit card dues as these incur interest cost 40% p.a. and above.

Residual debt
Borrowers still left with a sizeable debt should then avail credit facilities charging lower interest rates. Those having multiple loans and/or credit card dues can consolidate them by availing fresh loans at lower interest rates.

Borrowers can also consider other secured loan options like gold loan and loan against securities/mutual funds for debt consolidation if the interest rates and repayment conditions of these help in reducing overall interest cost .

Personal loan borrowers servicing loans at high interest rates can also explore the options of transferring their personal loans to lenders offering lower interest rates.

Borrowers unable to avail the aforementioned loans or those unable to repay their credit card dues in full can consider personal loans for debt consolidation.

Credit card holders unable to avail any of the aforementioned loan options can convert card debt into EMI. While the interest rates charged on EMI conversions are higher than the personal loan interest rates, these are still a lot lower than the finance charges levied on unpaid credit card dues.

Conclusion
Thus, to come out of debt traps, stressed borrowers would have to ensure consistent financial discipline and prudent debt management strategies. Some may also require an honest reassessment of their lifestyles. While consolidating their residual debt, they should first opt for secured loan options as these have lower interest rates than the unsecured ones. To further reduce their repayment burden, they can also opt for longer tenures while availing new loan(s) for debt consolidation.

(The writer is co-founder & CEO of Paisabazaar)

Beware of switch costs in MF plans

THINKINVESTOR

What if you want to switch from a regular plan to a direct plan? The process is easy, but you must be mindful of the related cost; this is because the switch is considered a redemption of a regular plan

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

There are some investment decisions that we took in the past that we would like to modify now. Switching from a regular plan to a direct plan in an equity mutual fund is one such decision. In this article, we discuss the factors you must consider before you make such a switch.

Tax effect
Mutual funds offer two plans – regular plan and direct plan. Suppose you invest in a large-cap active fund of an asset management company (AMC). If you make the investment through a distributor, you typically invest in a regular plan. When you make the investment directly with the AMC, you invest in a direct plan.

Distributors need incentive to market mutual fund products of an AMC. Therefore, AMCs pay commission to distributors when you invest in a fund and for every year you stay invested in the fund. This commission comes from the fee that an AMC charges you. Hence, the regular plan will carry a higher fee than a direct plan. The portfolio and the fund manager for both direct and regular plans are the same.

What if you want to switch from a regular plan to a direct plan? The process is easy, but you must be mindful of the related cost. This is because your switch is considered as redemption of the regular plan and fresh investment in the same fund through the direct plan.

That would attract capital gains tax. If your redemption involves investments that you have carried for more than 12 months, then you must pay long term capital gains tax at 12.5% if your gains are above ₹1.25 lakh in a year.

For investments with holding period of less than 12 months, you must pay 20% short-term capital gains tax. So, you must consider the tax effect of the switch.

Summing Up
If the amount involved falls within the 1.25 lakh exemption limit for long term capital gains tax, you can consider switching in any year. Suppose the amount exceeds that level or you are required to redeemed other investments during the same year to meet a life goal. In such cases, you must stop the current systematic investment plan (SIP) on the regular plan and start a new SIP on the same fund through the direct plan. You can switch the accumulated investments from the regular plan to the direct plan subsequently when related long-term capital gains tax falls within the annual exemption limit.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.25	7.50	7.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.10	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.00	6.75	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.20
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.00	9.00	6.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.05	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.85	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.25	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.05	8.05	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	8.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.05	7.10	7.55	7.40
Federal Bank	7.50	7.00	7.10	7.10
HDFC Bank	7.40	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.25	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.90	6.50	6.80	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.99	7.75	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.00	7.00	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.60	7.00	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.50	7.25	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.40	7.10	7.00	6.20
RBL Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	7.75	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.70	6.70	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.60	7.00	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	7.75	7.25	7.25	7.25
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.30	6.85	7.15	6.80
Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.45	6.75	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	7.40	6.85	7.40	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.50	6.85	7.00	6.75
Indian Bank	7.30	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.30	7.10	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.45	6.30	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.25	6.80	6.75	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.70	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.30-10.75	8.30-10.90	8.30-10.90
Punjab National Bank	8.45-10.25	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.15
Bank of India	8.35-10.85	8.35-10.85	8.35-11.10
Canara Bank	8.50-11.25	8.45-11.25	8.40-11.15
UCO Bank	8.30 #	8.30 #	8.30 #
Bank of Maharashtra	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.40-11.00	8.40-11.00	8.40-11.00
Indian Bank	8.40-10.30	8.40-10.30	8.40-10.30
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
ICICI Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Axis Bank	8.75-13.30	8.75-13.30	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
South Indian Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Karur Vysya Bank	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.87	8.75-10.87	8.75-10.87
Federal Bank	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.16-15.00	9.16-13.33	9.16-13.33
RBL Bank	9.00 #	9.00 #	9.00 #
CSB Bank	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Tata Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.60 #	8.60 #	8.60 #
ICICI Home Finance	9.30 #	9.30 #	9.30 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

#onwards Rates as on January 15 Source:Paisabazaar.com

KABUL

No excuse for education bans on Afghan women: Taliban official

AP

A senior Taliban figure has urged the group's leader to scrap education bans on Afghan women and girls, saying there is no excuse for them, in a rare public rebuke of government policy. Sher Abbas Stanikzai, political deputy at the Foreign Ministry, made the remarks in a speech on Saturday in southeastern Khost province. AP

LAGOS

Death toll from Nigeria petrol tanker truck blast rises to 86

AP

The death toll from the explosion of a petrol tanker truck in Nigeria that killed people rushing to gather fuel has risen to 86. The truck carrying 60,000 litres of petrol exploded after flipping over on a road in the centre of the country on Saturday, authorities said. Rescuers had previously put the toll at 70 dead. AFP

LANGKAWI

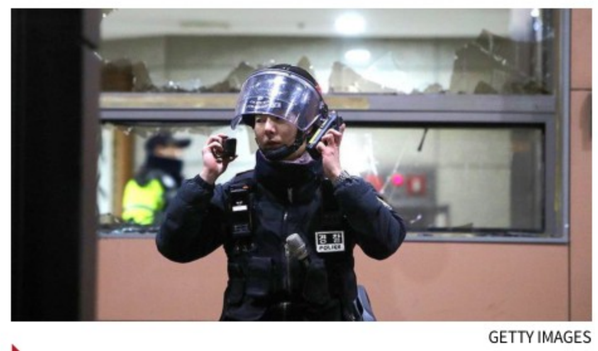
ASEAN tells Myanmar junta to prioritise ceasefire over elections

AP

Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN grouping told Myanmar's junta to prioritise a ceasefire in its civil war over fresh elections during a meeting in Malaysia on Sunday. Malaysia is this year's rotating chair of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Myanmar was represented by the junta's foreign affairs secretary. AFP

SEOUL

Protesters storm S. Korea court after Yoon's detention is extended



GETTY IMAGES

Tens of thousands of supporters of South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol stormed a Seoul court on Sunday after a judge extended his detention over his bid to impose martial law. Mr. Yoon said he was "deeply saddened" by the pre-dawn attack on the court, where his supporters smashed windows and doors. AFP

Gaza truce takes hold with handover of first hostages

Delay by Hamas puts off the truce's start by nearly three hours; Israel's strikes during the period kill at least 26 people; Netanyahu says he has Trump's backing to continue fighting if necessary

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took hold in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, ushering in an initial six-week period of calm and raising hopes for the release of dozens of militant-held hostages and an end to the devastating 15-month war. A last-minute delay by Hamas put off the truce's start by nearly three hours and highlighted its fragility.

Three Israeli hostages released from Gaza have been handed over to Israeli forces there. The three hostages are Romi Gonen, 24, kidnapped from the Nova music festival, and Emily Damari, 28, and Doron Steinbrecher, 31, kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza. Subsequently, they were united with their families in Israel. Later on Sunday, Israel is expected to release around 90 Palestinian prisoners.

Trickling in: Men sit amid the destruction upon their return to central Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

Even before the ceasefire took effect, celebrations erupted across the territory and some Palestinians began returning to their homes.

The truce, which started at 11:15 a.m. local time, is the first step toward ultimately ending the conflict and returning nearly 100 hostages abducted in Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack.

Hamas was supposed to provide the names before the start of the ceasefire, originally planned for 8:30 a.m. It released the names about two hours later, citing technical reasons and saying it was still committed to the agreement.

In the interim between 8:30 a.m. and when the ceasefire took hold, Israeli fire killed at least 26 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It did not say whether they were civilians or fighters. The military has warned people to stay away from Israeli forces as they retreat to a buffer zone inside Gaza.

In a separate development, Israel announced it had recovered the body of Oron Shaul, a soldier killed in the 2014 Israel-Hamas war, in a special operation in Gaza.

Mediation effort

The ceasefire deal was announced last week after a year of mediation by the United States, Qatar and Egypt. The outgoing Biden administration and President-elect Donald Trump's team had both pressed for an agreement to be reached before the inauguration on Monday. Mr. Netanyahu on Saturday warned that he had Mr. Trump's backing to continue fighting if necessary.

The 42-day first phase of the ceasefire should see 33 hostages returned from Gaza and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees released. Many displaced Palestinians should be able to return home.

Far-right Ministers quit over Gaza ceasefire

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Two far-right Israeli ministers publicly opposed a Gaza ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas on Sunday in another sign of widening cracks in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition.

Hardline National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and two other ministers from his nationalist-religious party resigned from Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet over the deal

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stopped short of resigning but said that if Israel agreed to a full end to the war before achieving its aims in Gaza he and his party, Religious Zionism, would also leave the coalition.

Awami League mobilises itself against Yunus govt.

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Over the past few weeks, leaders of the party have begun to challenge the interim government

After months of maintaining a low profile, the deposed Awami League of Bangladesh has begun to mobilise itself both inside the country and in different parts of the world. The political party that ruled Bangladesh for over a decade and a half faced serious setbacks when Prime Minister Hasina and her Cabinet colleagues were deposed and fled the country in August. However, over the past few weeks, AL leaders have begun to challenge the interim government headed by Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus.

Earlier this week, the joint secretary of the Awami League, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, lashed out against the Yunus government following the recommendations made by the Constitution Reforms Commission seeking fundamental changes to the state of Bangladesh. In a statement, the Awami League leader said in Dhaka that the "commission has recommended removal of secularism, socialism, and nationalism from the 1972 constitution and the recommendations are not acceptable at all."

Former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Hasan Mahmud, is has taken refuge in Belgium and the All European Awamii League has held multiple meetings in Belgium protesting against growing instances of mob justice and the breakdown of police system and administration.

The main overground political party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) that was in sync with the interim government in August and September is no longer extending unconditional support. On Sunday, General Secretary of BNP Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir echoed the concerns as enunciated by Mr. Hanif of the Awami League. Mr. Mirza Fakhrul said that the far reaching changes suggested by the reform commissions will not be accepted without all party consensus. The statement was made following an event on the 89th birth anniversary of founder of the BNP and late Presdent Ziaur Rahman in Dhaka.

TikTok restoring services, thanks Trump

Reuters
WASHINGTON

TikTok said on Sunday said it was restoring its service after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said he would revive the app's access in the country when he returns to power on Monday.

The statement came after U.S. users reported being able to access the Chinese-owned service's website while the far more widely used TikTok app itself did not appear to be immediately available.

TikTok stopped working for its 170 million American users late on Saturday before a law shutting it down on national security grounds took effect on Sunday. U.S. officials had warned that under Chinese parent company ByteDance, there was a risk of Americans' data being misused.

Mr. Trump said he would "extend the period of time before the law's prohibitions take effect, so that we can make a deal to protect our national security."

"I would like the U.S. to have a 50% ownership position in a joint venture," he wrote on Truth Social.

Mr. Trump said the executive order would specify there would be no liability for any company that helped keep TikTok from going dark before his order.

Deptt.of Water Resources, Government of Odisha

"e" Procurement Notice No. ACEDC-CTC- 06 / 2024-25

1. Name of the Works	:	Total 02 (two) nos. different Drainage works
2. Estimated cost	:	Rs. 270.34 lakh and Rs. 492.44 lakh
3. Period of Completion	:	18 (Eighteen) months
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 11.00 hours of Dt. 20.01.2025 to 18.00 hours of Dt. 03.02.2025
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	18.00 hours of Dt.03.02.2025
6. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack- 753003. e-mail id :- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.

A-923: **Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack**

OIPR-32174/11/0013/2425

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
INDRAVATI & KOLAB BASIN, BARINIPUT (JEYPORE), DIST:-KORAPUT, PIN-764006
E-mail Id - cebmikb@gmail.com

e - PROCUREMENT NOTICE No-CEBMIKB-01/2024-25

No.239 / Dated:- 17.01.2025

1. No of work	:	01 (One) no
2. Value of work	:	Rs.3487.875 lacs (Excluding GST)
3. Bid Security/EMD	:	Rs. 34,87,900/-
4. Class of contractor	:	"Super" Class & "Special" Class
5 Period of completion	:	24 (Twenty four) Calendar months
6. Type of contract	:	Percentage Rate (Double cover)
7. Cost of Tender paper	:	Rs. 10,000/- (Non refundable)
8 . Availability of Tender online for bidding	:	From 10.00Hrs on 22.01.2025 to 17.30Hrs on 11.02.2025
9. Date & time of Pre-bid conference	:	On 28.01.2025 at 11.30Am in Office of the C.E. & B.M, I & K Basin, Bariniput, Jeypore, Dist:-Koraput
10. Date & time of on line bid submission	:	From 10.00Hrs on 22.01.2025 to 17.30Hrs on 11.02.2025
11. Date & time of opening of technical bid	:	11.30Hrs on 12.02.2025 in Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Indravati & Kolab Basin, Bariniput, Jeypore, Dist: Koraput
12. Date & time of opening of Financial Bid	:	to be intimated to the qualified Bidder(s) after approval of Technical Bid(s).

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in/ www.dowrodisha.gov.in.** Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.

A-919: **Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Indravati & Kolab Basin, Bariniput**

OIPR-32456/11/0001/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 11 / 2024-25

1. Type of Work	:	Road Work.
2. Total No. of Works	:	02 (Two) No.
3. Amount put to Tender	:	Varies from Rs.503.81 Lakh to Rs.362.18 Lakh
4. Period of Completion	:	11 (Eleven) Calendar months
5. Paper Cost	:	Rs.10000/- per each
6. Class of Contractor	:	'A' Class of Contractor

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line	Date and Place of Opening of Technical Bids online
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE,RBB(CHID)-22/2024-25	503.81	From 22.01.2025, 10.00 AM to 06.02.2025, 5.00 PM	07.02.2025 (11.30 A.M.) in the office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur.
2.		ACE,RBB(CHID)-23/2024-25	362.18		

Bidders are to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Web-site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of the tender can be seen in the above website only.

A-908: **Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur**

OIPR-32411/11/0017/2425

THE HINDU GROUP

WHERE OTHERS PUT A FULL STOP, *we put a comma.*

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SPAT WITH BROADCASTER

Djokovic skips customary post-match TV interview

GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic declined to do a customary post-match TV interview after his win on Sunday night to protest comments made on air by official broadcaster *Channel 9*'s Tony Jones. Djokovic said he wants an apology from the channel and Jones who called the 24-time Grand Slam champion overrated and a has-been.

LIFE PARTNER

Neeraj Chopra ties the knot with tennis player Himani Mor

X@NEERAJ_CHOPRA1

Javelin ace Neeraj Chopra on Sunday announced his wedding to tennis player Himani Mor. "Grateful for every blessing that brought us to this moment together. Bound by love, happily ever after," the two-time Olympic medallist wrote on social media while sharing photographs from the ceremony.

DOMINANT

India women power past Nepal, clinch title in style in kho kho WC

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian women won the inaugural kho kho World Cup in New Delhi on Sunday, easing past Nepal 78-40 in the final. The dominant display from the home side was consistent with its superiority right through the tournament. Former captain Nasreen Shaikh, who won the Arjuna Award in 2023, announced her retirement after the final.

SUPER SUNDAY

Indian men beat Nepal in final to ring in the double cheer

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India completed the double at the kho kho World Cup as the men followed the women in lifting silverware in New Delhi on Sunday. Up against Nepal in the final, the men won 54-36 to live up to the expectations of a buoyant crowd. Captain Pratik Waikar was one of the star performers for the men's team.

Kalinga Lancers script a sensational comeback win

The shootout victory makes thousands of home fans happy while Pipers suffer their seventh consecutive defeat; Reynolds-Cotterill does the star turn with three penalty saves

HIL

Y.B. Sarangi
ROURKELA

Goalkeeper Toby Reynolds-Cotterill saved thrice in penalty shootout as Vedanta Kalinga Lancers made a stunning comeback to pip Delhi SG Pipers in an action-packed high-scoring Pool-A thriller of the Hockey India League at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Sunday.

As the men's league entered its second phase, Lancers rode on Alex Hendrickx and Thierry Brinkman's braces to erase a three-goal deficit as the two sides were locked 5-5 in the regulation period. Lancers won the shootout 3-2 to record their fourth win and make thousands of home fans happy, while Pipers suffered their seventh consecutive defeat.

Lancers conducted raids from the left and earned a short corner in the 13th minute. Hendrickx flicked low to put the host ahead.

Acrobatic effort: Reynolds-Cotterill pulls off a save in the shootout. R.V. MOORTHY

The second quarter suddenly switched in Pipers' favour as the Graham Reid-coached side converted four penalty corners in the space of five minutes.

Following Jarmanpreet Singh's smart effort, Tomas Domene drag-flicked high to equalise.

The Argentinian scored another, giving Pipers the lead by shooting home a low and angled flick to Krishan Pathak's left.

Corey Weyer found Pipers' third goal off a rebound beating Pathak on the right.

Pipers made it 4-1 as Koji Yamasaki jumped to tap in another rebound and helped Pipers retain their advantage at the halfway stage.

Brinkman slammed in off a free ball inside the circle to pull one back soon after the change of ends.

Amid a hard tussle and heated exchanges, Dilraj Singh finished off Domene's excellent circle entry from the right to score Pipers' fifth.

Lancers, served well by Antoine Kina and Boby Singh Dhami up front, refused to give up.

They pumped in three goals within seven minutes of the fourth quarter to make a sensational comeback. Quick passes from outside the 'D' and deflections enabled Lancers to slot in two through Brinkman and Angad Bir Singh. Hendrickx utilised Lancers' sixth short corner to take it to the shootouts.

The result: Pool A: Vedanta Kalinga Lancers 5 (Hendrickx 13, 52, Brinkman 35, 47, Angad Bir 49) drew with Delhi SG Pipers 5 (Domene 18, 20, Weyer 21, Yamasaki 23, Dilraj 37); Lancers bt Pipers 3-2 via shootout.

Yibbi's brace powers Warriors to top spot

Y. B. Sarangi
ROURKELA

Yibbi Jansen's double penalty corner conversion propelled Odisha Warriors to a 4-1 win over Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers in the women's competition of the Hockey India League at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Sunday.

Warriors' third victory in front of their home crowd took them to the top of the table.

Warriors created a few good chances early on but could not achieve success due to Tigers' alert goalkeeper Grace O'Hanlon.

Tigers replied by launching some raids, led by Hannah Cotter. At the stroke of the first break, Tigers earned a short corner which resulted in a stroke before being cancelled by Warriors' referral.

Warriors showed better coordination while attacking with more intensity in the second quarter. The Dutch duo of Yibbi and Michelle Fillet combined beautifully to draw first blood. Yibbi sent in a diagonal pass from half-line and Michelle unleashed a cracking shot from top of the circle to score a spectacular goal.

Stealing the show: Yibbi leads the celebration after scoring her second goal. R.V. MOORTHY

Yibbi sounded the board to convert Warriors' first short corner in style and double the lead.

Backed by vociferous home supporters, Warriors, featuring four local players, made several forays but Rutuja Pisal and Neha Goyal missed great opportunities.

Tigers' custodian Grace remained vigilant to blunt some attacks, including the one by Neha.

Just before half-time, Tigers pulled one back as Udita skilfully foxed Jocelyn Bartram with a grounder off a penalty corner and made some justice to her team's 76 per cent possession at the halfway mark.

Amid interceptions and counters from both sides, Lalremsiami boosted Tigers' attack in the third quarter. Warriors' circle entries got them two more penalty corners.

Yibbi showcased another low drag-flick and Neha struck home in the final period to seal the issue for Warriors.

The result: Odisha Warriors 4 (Michelle 16, Yibbi 18, 47, Neha 58) bt Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers 1 (Udita 30).

SNAPSHOTS

Gukesh turns the tables on Giri in opener

WIJK AAN ZEE: World champion D. Gukesh battled back from a tough position to beat Anish Giri in the first round of the Tata Steel Masters on Saturday.

The results: Round 1: Masters: D. Gukesh bt Anish Giri; P. Harikrishna bt Arjun Erigaisi; Leon Luke Mendonca lost to Vincent Keymer; R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov; Wei Yi drew with Fabiano Caruana; Max Warmerdam drew with Alexey Sarana; Jorden van Foreest drew with Vladimir Fedoseev.

Challengers: Divya Deshmukh lost to Nodirbek Yakubboev; Oro Faustino lost to R. Vaishali; Nguyen Thai van Dam bt Arthur Pijpers; Aydin Sulemanli drew with Benjamin Bok; Ediz Gurez bt Irina Bulmaga; Erwin L'Ami drew with Frederic Svane; Mioyi Lu bt Nodirbek Kazybek.

FC Goa scrapes past East Bengal, climbs to second in the table

FATORDA: FC Goa rode on Brison Fernandes' 13th minute goal to beat East Bengal FC 1-0 and move to the second spot in the ISL table on Sunday. It was Goa's eighth win of the season and took it to 30 points in 16 matches.

For Brison, it was his sixth goal of the season. Goa will next play Chennaiyin FC on Jan. 25 while East Bengal will face Kerala Blasters FC on Jan. 24.

Further turmoil for United and Spurs

Final nail: Georginio Rutter sealed the win for Brighton. REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
MANCHESTER

Manchester United's season lurched further into turmoil Sunday after a 3-1 loss to Brighton in the Premier League. Goals from Yankuba Minteh, Kaoru Mitoma and Georginio Rutter at Old Trafford consigned United to a 10th defeat in the league. Bruno Fernandes scored for United from the penalty spot.

Tottenham's woeful campaign also sunk to new depths with a 3-2 loss at relegation-fighting Everton, but Nottingham Forest's unlikely title challenge goes from strength to strength after a 3-2 win against last-placed Southampton.

The results: **Premier League**: Everton 3 (Calvert-Lewin 13, Ndiaye 30, Gray 45+7-og) bt Tottenham 2 (Kulusevski 77, Richarlison 90+2); Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 23-pen) lost to Brighton 3 (Minteh 5, Mitoma 60, Rutter 76); Nottingham Forest 3 (Anderson 11, Hudson-Odoi 28, Wood 41) bt Southampton 2 (Bednarek 60, Onuachu 90+1).

La Liga: Celta Vigo 1 (Alvarez 74) lost to Athletic Bilbao 2 (Berenguer 62, Vivian 71); Real Madrid 4 (Mbappe 18-pen, 36, Diaz 33, Rodrygo 57) bt Las Palmas 1 (Silva 1)

Bundesliga: Union Berlin 2 (Hollerbach 1, Skov 24-pen) bt Mainz 1 (Amiri 5-pen).

Serie A: Cagliari 4 (Gaetano 60, Luperto 65, Zortea 80, Obert 83) bt Lecce 1 (Pierotti 42); Fiorentina 1 (Kean 28) drew with Torino 1 (Gineitis 70); Parma 1 (Hernani 56-pen) drew with Venezia 1 (Pohjanpalo 20-pen).

On Saturday: LaLiga: Real Betis 1 (Rodriguez 28) lost to Alaves 3 (Garcia 11-pen, 80, 84); Getafe 1 (Arambarri 34) drew with Barcelona 1 (Kounde 9).

Serie A: Atalanta 2 (Retegui 16, Lookman 55) lost to Napoli 3 (Politano 27, McTominay 40, Lukaku 78); Juventus 2 (Mbangula 59, Weah 64) bt AC Milan 0.

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Wirtz 32, 62-pen, Schick 74) bt Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Kleindienst 90+1).

Djokovic sets up mouthwatering quarterfinal clash with Alcaraz

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic surged into an Australian Open quarterfinal clash against Carlos Alcaraz with a dominant straight-sets victory on Sunday while women's World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka was a ruthless winner.

Double defending champion Sabalenka is on a collision course with in-form World No. 3 Coco Gauff in the semifinals in Melbourne if both win in the last eight.

On the hottest day of the tournament, Alcaraz went through when Britain's Jack Draper retired injured.

The 37-year-old Djokovic then kept up his end of the bargain with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4) win over Czech 24th seed Jiri Lehecka in the prime-time match on Rod Laver Arena.

The 21-year-old Alcaraz, who has never gone beyond the quarterfinals in Melbourne, was leading 7-5, 6-1 when Draper pulled the plug.

American 12th seed Tommy Paul destroyed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina for the loss of just three games.

Sabalenka blew away Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva 6-1, 6-2 in a chilling warning to sweep into the quarterfinals.

A dangerous Gauff faces Spain's 11th seed Paula Badosa after fighting back to beat Belinda Bencic 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Badosa was a 6-1, 7-6(2) winner over Serbia's Olga Danilovic.

Day Eight in numbers

australian open

1 Alcaraz (21y 8m) is the youngest player to reach two singles quarterfinals in each of the four Slams

2 Paul (27y 8m) is the youngest American to advance to his second singles quarterfinal at Melbourne Park since Roddick (21y 4m) in 2004

8 The number of times Gauff has made it to the last eight at a Slam before turning 21, a record bettered only by Sharapova (12), Serena (9) and Clijsters (9)

18 Sabalenka has pulled level with Azarenka for the longest winning streak in Melbourne this millennium

15 Djokovic has equalled Federer's quarterfinal appearances at the Australian Open

20 Djokovic is only the second player after Federer to progress to the singles quarterfinals of at least one Slam across 20 seasons

64 Alcaraz trails only McEnroe (65) for most singles victories at Slams after 75 matches

105 Zverev now has the second-most wins (105 - tied with Haas) among German men at Majors. Becker (163) tops the chart

1 Badosa is the first Spanish woman to reach the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park since Muguruza (2020), and the first Spanish woman to book a last-eight berth in successive Majors since Muguruza (French Open and Wimbledon, 2015)

* all stats pertain to Open Era

Monday's Picks FOURTH ROUND — Men 1-Sinner vs Rune, 8-De Minaur vs Michelsen, 21-Shelton vs Monfils, Sonego vs Tien | Women 2-Swiatek vs Lys, 6-Rybakina vs Keys, 8-Navarro vs Kasatkina, 28-Svitolina vs Kudermetova

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

TOP RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 7-Djokovic (Srb) bt 24-Lehecka (Cze) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4); 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 15-Draper (GBr) 7-5, 6-1, retd.; 12-Paul (USA) bt Davidovich Fokina (Esp) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1; 2-Zverev (Ger) bt 14-Humbert (Fra) 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Women: Fourth round: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 14-Andreeva (Rus) 6-1, 6-2; 27-Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) bt 18-Vekic (Cro) 7-6(0), 6-0; 11-Badosa (Esp) bt Danilovic (Srb) 6-1, 7-6(2); 3-Gauff (USA) bt Bencic (Sui) 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.

Mixed doubles: Second round: Zhang (Chn) & Bopanna (Ind) w/o Townsend (USA) & Nys (Mon).

Smooth sailing for favourites on day one

Amol Karhadkar
SURAT

The 86th senior National table tennis championship started off on an expected note, with the favourites sailing through most of the team championship league stage proceedings at the Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium here.

Men's defending champion Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) crushed Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh to enter the knockouts.

Telangana, meanwhile, overcame Andhra Pradesh 3-0 in the clash of the neighbours clubbed together in Group G to improve its chance of entering the round of 16.

The most entertaining tie of the day saw Suhana Saini starring to help Haryana edge past Uttar Pradesh 3-2 in a women's Group E tie.

Suhana... Haryana's architect.
FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

Important results: Women: Group A: RSPB bt Goa 3-0, Chandigarh bt J&K 3-0, RSPB bt Chandigarh 3-0.
Group B: PSPB bt Madhya Pradesh 3-0, PSPB bt Assam 3-0, Madhya Pradesh bt Ladakh 3-0.
Group C: Tamil Nadu bt Meghalaya 3-0, Andhra Pradesh bt Manipur 3-0; Tamil Nadu bt Andhra Pradesh 3-0.
Group D: Maharashtra bt Jharkhand 3-0, Maharashtra bt Odisha 3-1.
Group E: Haryana bt Uttar Pradesh 3-2, Uttarakhand bt Daman & Diu 3-1.
Group F: West Bengal bt Pondicherry 3-0, Karnataka bt Bihar 3-0, West Bengal bt Karnataka 3-1.
Group G: Delhi bt Nagaland 3-0, Kerala bt Himachal Pradesh 3-0, Delhi bt TTFI-2 3-0, Kerala bt Nagaland 3-0.
Group H: Gujarat bt Punjab 3-0, Telangana bt Chhattisgarh 3-0, Telangana bt Punjab 3-0.
Men: Group A: PSPB bt Chhattisgarh 3-0, PSPB bt Uttarakhand 3-0.
Group B: RSPB bt Kerala 3-0, RSPB bt Odisha 3-0.
Group C: Delhi bt Himachal Pradesh 3-0, Delhi bt Gujarat 3-0, Pondicherry bt Himachal Pradesh 3-2.
Group D: West Bengal bt TTFI-1 3-0.
Group E: Maharashtra bt Bihar 3-0, Karnataka bt J&K 3-0, Maharashtra bt Karnataka 3-0.
Group F: Tamil Nadu bt Nagaland 3-0, Tamil Nadu bt Madhya Pradesh 3-0.
Group G: Telangana bt Andaman & Nicobar 3-0, Haryana bt Chandigarh 3-0; Telangana bt Andhra Pradesh 3-0.

INBRIEF

Sajid, Abrar spin Pakistan to emphatic victory in first Test

Off-spinner Sajid Khan took five wickets and Abrar Ahmed another four to guide Pakistan to a 127-run win on the third day of the first Test against the West Indies in Multan on Sunday.

The scores: Pakistan 230 & 157 in 46.4 overs (Shan Masood 52, Jomel Warrican 7/32) bt West Indies 137 & 123 in 36.3 overs (Alick Athanaze 55, Sajid Khan 5/50, Abrar Ahmed 4/27). **PoM:** Sajid.

Jadeja to play Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy tie against Delhi

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is set to play in Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy tie against Delhi from January 23 after turning up for the team's practice session in Rajkot on Sunday. Jadeja last played for Saurastra in January 2023. "Jadeja has turned up for training today. He will play the next match," Saurashtra Cricket Association president Jaydev Shah told PTI on Sunday.

Rishabh and Jyothi shoot silver in French archery event

India's leading compound archers Rishabh Yadav and V. Jyothi Surekha claimed silver in the final of the Occitanie-Nimes indoor archery world series tournament in France. While Rishabh was edged 149-148 by Austria's Nico Wiener in the men's final, Jyothi lost 146-147 against Alejandra Usquiano of Colombia in the women's event.

Sports School picks up full points

The Sports School defeated Young Blue Elite FC 2-0 in an U-17 tier-1 match in the KSFA Youth Premier League in Bengaluru on Sunday. In another encounter, BYFL edged out BIFA 1-0. In tier-2, IOT Laliga FC pipped FC Bengaluru United 4-3.

Blue Star HC-A wins in KSHA B-division league hockey

Blue Star HC-A defeated Haveri DHA 2-1 in the KSHA B-division league hockey in Bengaluru on Sunday. In another match, Coorg Direwolves thrashed Naveen HC 7-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's U-19 T20 World Cup: Hotstar, 8 a.m. & 12 p.m.
Australian Open: Evening session, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m.
Hockey: HIL, DD Sports, Sony Sports 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6 & 8.15 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Axelsen and Young stamp their class

The Dane secured his third India Open title to equal Malaysian Lee Chong Wei record; the Korean was dominant in the women's section

BADMINTON

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

All smiles: Axelsen and Young strike a happy pose after claiming the singles titles. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

After a week of long-drawn matches, upset wins and local heartbreaks, the finals of the India Open on Sunday were anti-climactic with four of the summit clashes decided in straight games. Viktor Axelsen and An Se Young lived up to their pre-tournament favourites tag, registering comprehensive one-sided wins to clinch men's and women's India Open badminton titles respectively here on Sunday.

While Axelsen sent last year's runner-up Cheuk Yiu Lee of Singapore packing 21-16, 21-8 in 41 minutes for his third title in the tournament in six finals over 10 years - equalling Malaysian legend Lee Chong Wei for the most titles here - An Se took a minute less to wrap up a 21-12, 21-9 victory against Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong for her second after 2023. In the process, Axelsen also avenged his first-round loss to Lee at the season-opener Malaysia Open to extend his win record to 7-2 against the World No. 20.

The two Olympics champions have had a contrasting time since their Paris triumph but at the packed K.D. Jadhav Indoor Hall, they hit their strides to stamp their dominance in similar style at the Super 750 event. While An Se has continued in the same vein, dominating women's badminton – her only two losses coming against China's Zhi Yi Wang since Paris – Axelsen has been struggling with injuries, training and motivation, even pulling out of the year-end World Championship Finals in December last.

He had struggled to find his rhythm and form here as well but the Dane found the perfect way to wrap up his campaign. Starting slowly and being erratic, the 2017 and 2019 champion trailed 2-6 before levelling at 7-7, then reeled off six points to go 13-8 up before winning 21-16, finding a way to retrieve everything that Lee threw at him and getting stronger in his attacks. Once the first game was in, Axelsen was a different beast in the second, running away with the game and the title to take home a prize purse of $66,500 and 11,000 ranking points.

An Se, who has never lost to Pornpawee in their nine previous meetings, extended her dominance to 10-0 in just 39 minutes, taking control early on for a 6-1 lead before winning 21-12. The second game was no different, An Se leading 7-1 before closing the match at 21-12, not having dropped a single game in her 10 matches this year.

The results (finals): Men: Viktor Axelsen (Den) bt Cheuk Yiu Lee (Sgp) 21-16, 21-8; **Doubles**: Sze Fei Goh & Nur Izzuddin (Mal) bt Won Ho Kim & Seung Jae Seo (Kor) 21-15, 13-21, 21-16. **Women**: An Se Young (Kor) bt Pornpawee Chochuwong (Tha) 21-12, 21-9; **Doubles**: Arisa Igarashi & Ayako Sakuramoto (Jpn) bt Hye Jeong Kim & Hee Yong Kong (Kor) 21-15, 21-13. **Mixed Doubles**: Zheng Bang Jiang & Ya Xin Wei (Chn) bt Thom Gicquel & Delphine Delrue (Fra) 21-18, 21-17.

Tesfay and Tele crowned champs

MUMBAI MARATHON

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Unheralded Berhane Tesfay of Eritrea clinched the elite men's title while Kenya's Joyce Chepkemoi Tele won the women's crown in the Tata Mumbai Marathon on Sunday.

The 38-year-old Tesfay clocked 2 hours 11 minutes and 44 seconds to complete the 42.195km distance and win his maiden international full marathon title. Tesfay's compatriot Merhawi Kesete was second in 2:11:50s while Ethiopia's Tesfaye Demeke (2:11:56s) was third.

Tele, 29, clocked 2:24:56s to win the elite women's race, finishing ahead of Shitaye Eshete (2:25:29s) of Bahrain and Medina Deme Armino (2:27:58s) of Ethiopia.

Among the Indians, Anish Thapa (2:17:23s) finished first among men while Nirmaben Thakor (2:50:06s) defended her title among women.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

TN and Kerala reign in 3x3 National basketball championship

Tamil Nadu and Kerala won the men's and women's titles respectively at the 3x3 National Basketball Championship that concluded in Bengaluru on Sunday. Tamil Nadu beat Uttar Pradesh 21-16 in the men's final while Kerala women overcame Tamil Nadu 16-12.

SC Bengaluru suffers another reverse

SC Bengaluru succumbed to yet another loss, its third in a row and sixth from nine matches, as it was beaten 3-1 by Real Kashmir in Srinagar on Sunday. SCB also had two men sent off, Bishal Lama in the 64th minute and Carlos Lomba deep into injury-time.

The reverses leave SCB in a precarious position, 12th in a 12-team league with just five points. The side next plays Sreenidi Deccan at home on January 24.

The result: Real Kashmir 3 (Paulo Cezar 28, 55, El Hadji Karim Samb 67) bt SC Bengaluru 1 (Henry Kisekka 90).

India bowlers prove too good for WI

WOMEN'S U-19 WC

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

India shot out a clueless West Indies for 44 and registered a commanding nine-wicket win to begin its title defence in the women's U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

Left-arm spinners Parunika Sisodia (3/7) and Aayushi Shukla (2/6), as well as pacer V.J. Joshitha (2/5), proved unplayable as West Indies was bowled out in just 13.2 overs in the Group-A match at Bayuemas Oval.

India chased down the target of 45 in just 4.2 overs.

India next plays Malaysia on Tuesday.

The scores: West Indies 44 in 13.2 overs (Parunika Sisodia 3/7, V.J. Joshitha 2/5, Aayushi Shukla 2/6) lost to India 47/1 in 4.2 overs. **PoM:** Joshitha.

Joy for all: Joshitha celebrates after dismissing Samara. ICC

Two titles each for Matthai & Tarushi

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Philippos Matthai and Tarushi Vikram won two National titles apiece in the FMSCI Indian National Rally Sprint Championship 2024 organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

The results (provisional, cumulative timings, 2 laps):
Rally Sprint 1: 1. Philippos Matthai & K.N. Harish (09mins, 11.211secs); 2. Chandan Manche Gowda & Venu Ramesh Kumar (09:17.096).
Rally Sprint 2: 1. Philippos & Harish (09:15.788); 2. Chandan & Venu (09:28.473); 3. Arjun Rajiv & Pramod Raman (09:40.939).
Rally Sprint 3: 1. Chandan & Venu (09:11.231); 2. Arjun & Pramod (09:31.593); 3. Ramprasanth & Robert Antony (09:39.603).
Rally Sprint 4: 1. Amey Desai & Mahamad Asif Mulla (10:02.552); 2. Sravan Kumar & Dinky Varghese (10:26.819); 3. Kushal Chaudhari & Suraj Biswas (10:27.018).
Rally Sprint 5: 1. Umesh Rane & Suraj Biswas (10:54.678).
Juniors: 1. Tarushi Vikram & Amitha Aneesh (09:52.374); 2. Vihaan Bhat & G.R. Rohit (11:32.349).
Ladies: 1. Tarushi & Amitha (09:52.374).

Duke Of Tuscany obliges in the Golconda Derby

HYDERABAD: Trainer Pesi Shroff's ward Duke Of Tuscany, ridden by P. Trevor, won the HPSL Golconda Derby Stakes, the main attraction of the Sunday's (Jan. 19) races. The winner is owned by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Anosha Meyers, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Ms. Anita J. Captain. Trainer D. Netto saddled three winners on the day.

Trevor confidently positioned his mount in second place throughout the race, maintaining a steady pace until the field approached the home straight. As they entered the final stretch, this son of Cougar Mountain-Nicollini surged forward effortlessly, seizing the lead and securing a commanding victory.

1. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. II) (1,100M): DOUBLE BUBBLE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Emerald Touch (Neeraj) 2, Racing Ruler (G. Naresh) 3 and Victory Run (Ashad Asbar) 4. Head, 1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 7.94s. ₹57 (w), 12, 10 and 28 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 55, SHW: 26 and 15, FP: 175, Q: 48, Tanala: 1,315. Favourite: Emerald Touch. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

NOTE: *Originally Racing Ruler had finished second and Emerald Touch ended third. An objection raised by jockey Neeraj against Naresh for causing him interference in the last 200m was upheld by the Stewards and the placings were revised as above.*

2. TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA CUP (DIV. II) (1,400M): ONE N ONLY (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, D Minchu (David Allan) 2, Hurricane Bay (Mohit) 3 and Delhi Heights (Mukesh) 4. Head, 2 and 2-1/2. 1m, 26.21s. ₹22 (w), 10, 13 and 10 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 16, FP: 60, Q: 27, Tanala: 126. Favourite: One N Only. Owners: M/s. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Shankar Srinivas, Ashok Ranpise & Mrs. T. Rohini. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. I) (1,100M): DUBAI TOUCH (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Royal Warrior (P. Sai K) 2, Calabasas (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Philodendron (Md. Ismail) 4. 1, 2 and 3-1/4. 1m, 7.51s. ₹13 (w), 11, 14 and 30 (p). SHP: 19, THP: 62, SHW: 10 and 21, FP: 35, Q: 23, Tanala: 304. Favourite: Dubai Touch. Owners: Mr. N. Shyam Sunder, Mr. Anil V. Poduval & Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: N. Rawal.

4. BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP (1,200M): ROMANTIC GREY (Vivek G) 1, Perception (Md. Ismail) 2, Cherish The Lady (Ajay K) 3 and Peanut (Mukesh) 4. Head, 3-1/4 and Short Head. 1m, 13.01s. ₹16 (w), 12, 17 and 42 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 88, SHW: 16 and 11, FP: 83, Q: 53, Tanala: 1,700. Favourite: Romantic Grey. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

5. MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP (1,400M): CATCHMEIFYOUCAN (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Bold Beauty (G. Naresh) 2, Blue Pantheress (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and N R I Skypower (Santosh Raj) 4. 6-1/4, Neck and Neck. 1m, 26.86s. ₹23 (w), 14, 83 and 24 (p). SHP: 202, THP: 92, SHW: 10 and 163, FP: 1,015, Q: 1,313, Tanala: 25,008. Favourite: Catchmeifyoucan. Owners: Col. M.P. Singh & Mr. Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Magan Singh.

6. TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA CUP (DIV. I) (1,400M): PLEASANT STAR (Akshay Kumar) 1, Uchchaihshravas (Neeraj) 2, Imperia (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Barbet (Mukesh) 4. 2, 2 and 4-3/4. 1m, 24.94s. ₹31 (w), 11, 12 and 12 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 57, SHW: 13 and 15, FP: 79, Q: 35, Tanala: 148. Favourite: Imperia. Owners: M/s. S.R. Sanas, Ashok Ranpise & D.R. Thacker. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

7. MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP (1,600M): NONPARIEL (Akshay Kumar) 1, China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Shah Of Iran (P. Sai K) 3 and Clara (Suraj Narredu) 4. 4, Nose and Neck. 1m, 39.74s. ₹20 (w), 10, 46 and 22 (p). SHP: 145, THP: 52, SHW: 14 and 47, FP: 692, Q: 359, Tanala: 6,695. Favourite: Clara. Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary & Mr. P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

8. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB CUP (1,200M): HIGH HEELS (Gaurav Singh) 1, Calistoga (Saqlain) 2, N R I Dheera (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Linda (Afroz K) 4. 1/2, 1 and 1/2. 1m, 12.55s. ₹159 (w), 31, 11 and 21 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 52, SHW: 65 and 14, FP: 691, Q: 202, Tanala: 5,007. Favourite: Calistoga. Owner: Mr. Md. Junaid Ali Khan. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

9. HPSL GOLCONDA DERBY STAKES (GR. 1) (2,400M): DUKE OF TUSCANY (COUGAR MOUNTAIN-NICOLINI) (P. TREVOR) 1, Dapper Look (Sedgefield-Song Dynasty) (Akshay K) 2, Nyx (Dreamfield-Stimulate) (David Allan) 3 and Secret Saint (Multitude-Secret Garden) (A. Sandesh) 4. 3-3/4, Neck and Neck. 2m, 34.01s. ₹15 (w), 11 and 29 (p). SHP: 72, THP: 34, SHW: 11 and 35, FP: 125, Q: 110, Tanala: 416. Favourite: Duke Of Tuscany. Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Anosha Meyers, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Ms. Anita J. Captain. Trainer: P. Shroff.

10. DELHI RACE CLUB CUP (1,400M): EXCLUSIVE SPARK (Mohit Singh) 1, Rani Ruckus (Md. Ismial) 2, Silver Arrow (Gaurav) 3 and Balahaka (G. Naresh) 4. 3/4, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 28.68s. ₹44 (w), 18, 14 and 23 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 59, SHW: 17 and 30, FP: 197, Q: 74, Tanala: 799. Favourite: Balahaka. Owner: Mrs. Manju Rani. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹809 (215 tkts.) & 30%: 110 (676 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 12,412 (72 tkts.) & 30%: 964 (397 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 748 (448 tkts.), (ii) 4,681 (23 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 741 (459 tkts.), (ii) 276 (199 tkts.), (iii) 2,033 (30 tkts.).

Smaran – the kid at the forefront of Karnataka's win

CRICKET

Dhruva Prasad
VADODARA

"In the league stage, many will score runs. But the one who scores runs in the knockouts is the king."

R. Smaran would have been reminded of his childhood coach Syed Zabiulla's counsel from his days in junior cricket when he strode out on the big stage - the Vijay Hazare Trophy knockouts.

The 21-year-old, a diligent student, took his mentor's words to heart, bailing Karnataka out with a gritty 76 in the semifinal against Haryana, and topping it with an incandescent century in the final against Vidarbha to snap the State's title drought.

"He is a mixture of a stroke-maker and a hard-hitter. If he has to hang on, he will depend on his strokes. On the loose balls, he will show his hard-hitting skills," Zabiulla remarked about his ward's game. Smaran did exactly that, getting his eye in when Karnataka lost three early wickets in the final, before teeing off.

Reaping rewards: Smaran who followed his mentor Zabiulla's words diligently had a dream run. VIJAY SONEJI

The dual nature of Smaran's game reflects his demeanour. A 'very hyper' and 'naughty' kid, as Zabiulla recalls, Smaran always exuded exemplary patience. His steady rise through the age-group circuit and the subsequent wait for a senior team call-up attest to that virtue.

Interestingly, Smaran's first tryst with the game was a consequence of his parents just wanting to keep him busy.

"He was very energetic, and his energy needed to be channelled somewhere meaningfully. We found a cricket academy nearby. From the age of 10, for the sake of keeping him busy, we put him in that academy," his father Ravichandran recalls.

Though Smaran showed promise, Ravichandran, a mechanical engineer, wanted his son to follow in his footsteps.

"We wanted him to do engineering, so I wanted him to pursue science in 11th and 12th. We looked around for colleges that would help him support cricket and science, and then engineering. But then people discouraged us from pursuing science, because that takes a little bit of effort. Probably cricket and science may not go well," he admits.

Ravichandran still wants his son, a commerce graduate, to complete his post-graduate education.

"Sports in general, and cricket in particular, are very risky. In this country, you cannot entirely bank on it."

Zabiualla had pinned his hopes on Smaran long ago. "When he played Karnataka U-14, I knew that he is going to be the Karnataka middle-order bat going forward."

Karnataka's youngsters stepped up to deliver the State a much-awaited title, and chief selector J. Abhiram says Smaran is at the forefront of it.

"Smaran has impressed the most. We have seen him as a U-14 boy, and we really backed him. He got close to 700 [829] runs last year [in Col. CK Nayudu Trophy] and I am glad that he has done very well... Karnataka cricket is in very good hands now."

Tatiana triumphs in a thriller

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Tatiana Prozorova survived six match points before beating second seed and former world No. 76 Panna Udvardy of Hungary 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-4 in the final of the $40,000 ITF women's tennis at the DLTA Complex on Sunday.

For the sparse gathering that faithfully stayed glued to the seats for three hours, it was a high quality fare as both players did not hold back right through the gripping contest.

The 21-year-old Russian, Tatiana was perhaps a little more hungry and a lot more athletic to eventually convert her fifth match point for her sixth title in the professional circuit.